

Agreement on the Conservation  
of Albatrosses and Petrels



ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN THE FIRST

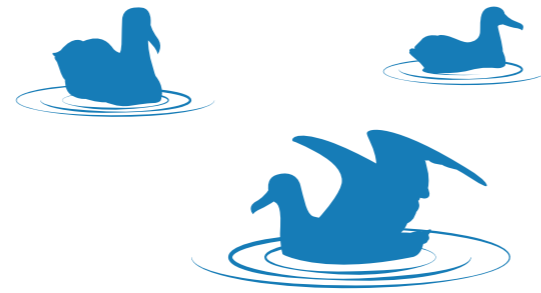
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YEARS

2004 — 2024







# Preface

As the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) celebrates the 20th anniversary of its entry into force (1 February 2004), it is timely to reflect on what the Agreement has achieved and the challenges that lie ahead.

The thirteen ACAP Parties and several non-Party supporters of ACAP have, together with the ACAP Secretariat, put together this record of achievements and aspirations.

This publication celebrates the remarkable dedication of ACAP Parties, researchers, non-Party Range States, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other entities in seeking, promoting and implementing solutions to the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels.

ACAP and its Parties have delivered many significant achievements in the last 20 years. For example, the eradication of introduced species from remote islands such as Macquarie Island, Antipodes Island, and South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> is a conservation triumph. Removing rodents and other pest species from breeding habitat is costly and logistically difficult, but is a critical step in improving the conservation status of ACAP-listed species. In future ACAP publications we hope to report the success of other ambitious but vital habitat restoration projects, such as those on Amsterdam, Auckland, Gough and Marion Islands.

Another significant achievement is the development and continual review of ACAP's Best Practice Advice for seabird bycatch mitigation measures in longline and trawl fisheries. This advice has influenced fishing practices globally and ACAP Parties have, individually and/or in regional cooperation arrangements, set in place mitigation measures based on this advice. Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (trFMOs), as well as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) have also referred to ACAP's advice when developing and adopting their binding seabird bycatch mitigation measures. These organisations are committed to reviewing their measures regularly.

Despite these, and the many other important achievements highlighted in this publication, generally ACAP-listed species are in decline. Since ACAP entered into force, the annual count of breeding Antipodean Albatrosses has halved. Sadly, this example is not atypical; the populations of over 40% of the 31 species listed by ACAP have decreased over the last 20 years.

These grim statistics are driven by a myriad of impacts such as invasive species, marine debris, climate change and disease but fisheries bycatch remains the greatest threat to

most ACAP-listed species. While many fisheries have adopted mitigation measures, often they are not implemented by the fishing vessels. Increasing the use of effective bycatch mitigation measures in domestic and high seas fisheries, together with adequate observer coverage, remains one of ACAP's biggest challenges and highest priorities. In the coming decade ACAP and its Parties must drive the implementation of best practice mitigation methods in domestic fisheries as well as work to influence fisheries operating in international waters.

ACAP's influence would be enhanced further if non-Party Range States (states which exercise jurisdiction over any part of the range of albatrosses and petrels, and/or which have fishing vessels in the high seas areas which are part of the birds' range) can be persuaded to participate in ACAP meetings and, ideally, become Parties to the Agreement. Such participation would improve the likelihood that ACAP mitigation measures are fully implemented in key industrial fisheries, in which thousands of albatrosses and petrels die every year.

ACAP's influence will also increase if we can expand the community of champions for albatrosses and petrels. Since albatrosses and petrels travel far out to sea, for some they are invisible birds, and their plight is little known. ACAP's newly-developed communications strategy will increase awareness of these spectacular species and highlight what can be done to end the conservation crisis. We all have a role to play in this vital endeavour.

We take this opportunity to thank the dedicated officials, researchers and advocates who have served as ACAP officers over the years, taking on responsibilities (additional to their already busy agendas) to lead ACAP Working Groups, the Advisory Committee and the Meetings of the Parties. Without the dedication of these officers, ACAP's achievements would not have been possible. We also wish to thank all the Parties and other bodies who have voluntarily contributed funds to ACAP's Small Grants and Secondments programmes. Finally, we thank all the recipients of ACAP Grants and Secondments over the last 20 years - the legacy of their work is another ACAP success story.

**Dr Christine Bogle**  
ACAP Executive Secretary

**Dr Mike Double**  
Advisory Committee Chair

February 2024

<sup>1</sup>A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur) and the surrounding maritime areas.





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# Introduction to ACAP

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels<sup>2</sup> (ACAP) celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its entry into force on 1 February 2024.

This intergovernmental agreement seeks to conserve albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to their populations. Its objective is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels.

There are currently 13 Parties to the Agreement – Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, France, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. Several non-Parties regularly attend ACAP meetings as observers.

The Agreement developed out of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) that encourages those Parties with concerns about particular species listed in the CMS appendices to form separate agreements for their conservation.

During the 1990s, seabird experts became increasingly concerned about the mortality of albatrosses and other seabirds in longline fishing gear. Negotiations among interested states on developing an international agreement commenced in 1999 and concluded rapidly, with only two meetings required to agree the text. The Agreement opened for signature in Canberra, Australia on 19 June 2001 and entered into force on 1 February 2004, at which time the Agreement applied to all Southern Hemisphere species of albatrosses and seven petrel species. Australia, as the Depositary Government, offered to host the ACAP Secretariat. The Secretariat established its headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, with support from the Tasmanian Government. The Secretariat consists of an Executive Secretary and a Science Officer. Additional support is provided by ACAP officials, contractors, consultants, interns and volunteers.

The Meeting of the Parties is the decision-making body under the Agreement and generally meets at three-year intervals. An Advisory Committee provides scientific, technical and other advice and information to the Parties. The Advisory Committee is currently supported by three working groups – the Population and Conservation Status Working Group, the Seabird Bycatch Working Group and the Taxonomy Working Group. The Advisory Committee and associated Working Groups meet in each of the two intervening years between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.



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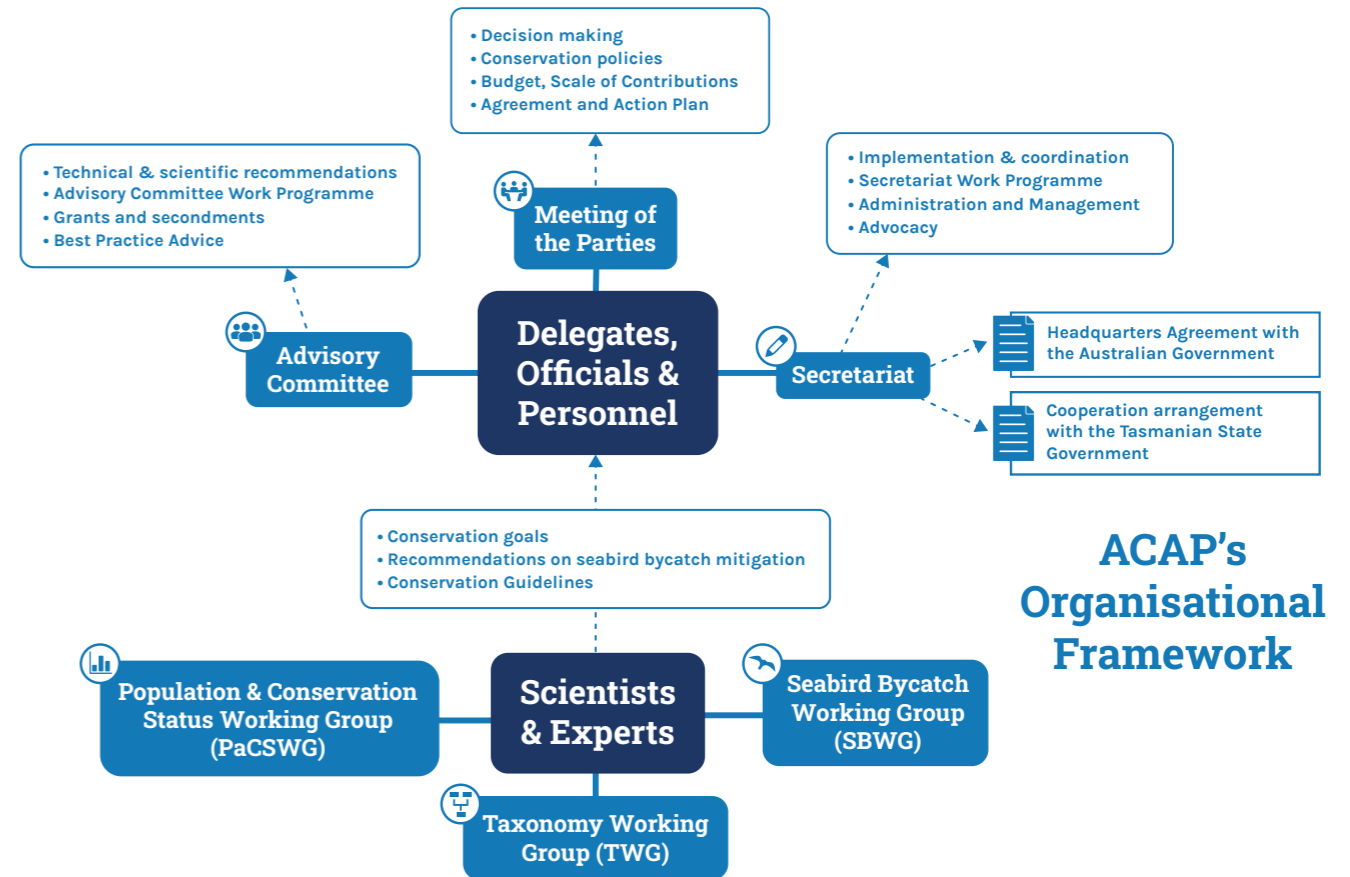
## Species protected under ACAP

ACAP focuses on any species, subspecies or population of albatrosses and petrels listed in its Annex 1 (see Appendix 2). Since ratification, three North Pacific albatross species and two petrels have been added to the Agreement so that Annex 1 currently covers all 22 species of albatrosses, all seven species of *Macronectes* and *Procellaria* petrels, and two species of shearwater in the genera *Puffinus* and *Ardenna*, all of which belong to the avian tubenose order Procellariiformes. Most ACAP-listed species are categorised as Threatened or Near-threatened on the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, including as Critically Endangered (three species), Endangered (eight species), Vulnerable (10 species) or Near Threatened (seven species). Only three of the 31 ACAP-listed species are categorised as Least Concern.

## Main threats to Albatrosses and Petrels

Albatrosses and petrels are susceptible to threats throughout their wide ranges that extend across national boundaries into international waters. The greatest threat facing most albatrosses and petrels is mortality resulting from interactions with fishing gear, especially longline and trawl fishing operations. These interactions can occur at both the industrial and small scale levels, as well as in artisanal fisheries. Other threats include invasive alien predators on land, habitat loss, climate change, disease and pollutants (including plastic and heavy metals).

Although individual states are taking measures to conserve albatrosses and petrels, actions by any one nation alone cannot be effective in improving their global conservation status. International cooperation is imperative for the successful conservation of these species.

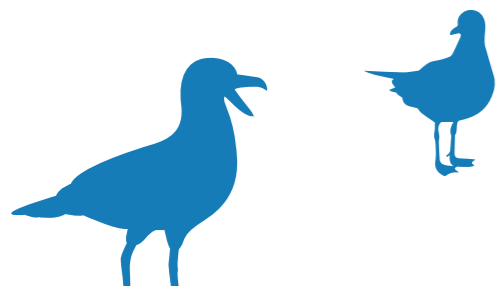


## ACAP's Organisational Framework



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<sup>2</sup> Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, done 19 June 2001, 2258 UNTS 257 (entered into force 1 February 2004).



# What ACAP does



The Agreement provides a focus for international cooperation and the exchange of information and expertise. The Action Plan annexed to the Agreement offers a framework for the implementation of effective conservation measures for these seabirds, both on land and at sea.

Key aspects of ACAP's work include:



## Mitigating seabird bycatch

A major part of ACAP's work involves the continual development and review of best-practice advice to reduce seabird bycatch in fisheries operations, particularly longline and trawl fisheries. Initially there was a particular focus on longline fisheries where early efforts to develop seabird bycatch mitigation identified a range of effective solutions. Over time and with an improving understanding of the wider risks posed by other fisheries, including trawl and small-scale and artisanal fisheries, ACAP's focus has broadened. ACAP now provides best practice seabird bycatch mitigation advice for pelagic longline, demersal longline and trawl fisheries, as well as developing further advice for purse seine, small scale and artisanal fisheries. ACAP advises that the most effective way to reduce seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fisheries is to use three best-practice measures simultaneously: (1) branchline weighting, (2) night setting and (3) bird-scaring lines; or to use one of the assessed hook-shielding and underwater bait-setting devices. All three recommended measures are demonstrated to be effective; however, each has limitations when used alone. As such, the simultaneous use of the three ACAP recommended mitigation measures optimises seabird-bycatch reduction in longline fisheries.



## Engagement with fishery managers

ACAP cooperates with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), BirdLife International, and other relevant organisations to promote best practice mitigation measures for seabird conservation in coastal and international waters.

## Population assessments

ACAP reviews the population status and trends of all ACAP-listed species by maintaining a global database and producing a series of Species Assessments. These assessments provide information on distribution, threats facing individual populations, and the conservation measures in place to protect them, and identify gaps in knowledge about the species.



## Conservation Guidelines and other outreach material

ACAP has developed Conservation Guidelines on biosecurity and quarantine for breeding sites; working with albatrosses and petrels during the Avian Flu (HPAI H5N1) panzootic; census methodologies for albatrosses and petrels; the eradication of alien invasive species from islands; plastic sampling guidelines; the translocation of albatross and petrel chicks; bycatch mitigation factsheets (produced together with BirdLife International); a Seabird Identification Guide (produced with assistance from the Japan Fisheries Research Agency); guidelines on observer data collection and electronic monitoring during fishing operations; and species summaries and infographics, among other material. These are all available on the ACAP website: [www.acap.aq](http://www.acap.aq).



## Intergovernmental cooperation

ACAP supports and encourages national, bilateral, and regional cooperation plans to protect seabirds. Such plans include: the Action Plan for the Waved Albatross *Phoebastria irrorata* of Ecuador's Galapagos Islands; the Regional Action Plan-Seabirds between Argentina and Uruguay, and the Australia-Chile-New Zealand plan for Concerted Action for the Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*.



## Supporting research and capacity building

ACAP provides funding for scientific research to support its conservation objectives through the ACAP Small Grants and Secondments Programmes. These programmes foster cross-Party collaboration, promote knowledge-sharing and encourage capacity-building within Parties.



## Awareness and Education

ACAP enhances public awareness of the challenges facing albatrosses and petrels through its website and social media platforms, and through other outreach efforts, such as World Albatross Day, celebrated annually on 19 June.



# ACAP's Achievements

Over the past twenty years ACAP and its Parties have made significant progress in developing the Agreement and driving actions to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels.

The Agreement's most significant actions and achievements are summarised below while those of each ACAP Party are presented in later sections.

Improving the conservation status of ACAP-listed species is a complex endeavour due to the wide-ranging nature of these species and the many threats that impact most populations. Therefore, between 2004 and 2024 ACAP's work programmes have addressed many priority areas. Significant achievements by ACAP and its Parties include:



## Seabird bycatch mitigation

- The development, review and provision of best practice advice on seabird bycatch mitigation to governments, intergovernmental bodies, and other entities in order to avoid or minimise bycatch of ACAP-listed species in longline, trawl and other fisheries. This information has been used by many ACAP Parties, non-Party Range States, RFMOs and other entities to adopt and implement effective seabird conservation measures in their fisheries.
- The adoption of seabird bycatch mitigation measures, based on ACAP's Best Practice Advice, by all the tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and some non-tuna RFMOs, as well as by CCAMLR. Although no organisation implements all of ACAP's Best Practice Advice, most have regularly updated their measures, taking into account updated advice from ACAP.
- Development of an RFMO Engagement Strategy to prioritise and coordinate ACAP's engagement with RFMOs to develop or improve existing seabird conservation measures in these organisations and strengthen the implementation of the measures.
- Engagement with certification schemes, including input to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standards review (the review led to substantial improvements to the standard and recognition of the need for protection of seabirds in the certification process).
- Participation in the Food and Agriculture Organisation's ABNJ Common Oceans Tuna Programme, to produce a global estimate of seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fishing in the Southern Hemisphere; and to enhance the implementation of seabird measures.
- Together with BirdLife International, the development and regular updates of bycatch mitigation fact sheets to be used on board fishing vessels.
- The development of advice for the removal of hooks from seabirds, and on releasing seabirds that are entangled in fishing nets.
- The adoption by many Parties (and in some cases updating) of National Plans of Action-Seabirds. Several Parties have also established binational and/or regional action plans.
- The development of guidelines on data delivery from electronic monitoring systems and fishery observers and engagement in discussions to implement electronic monitoring in international fisheries.

## Mitigation of other threats

- Successful invasive species eradication programmes at breeding sites in 10 locations, resulting in a slow and steady decrease in the number of islands and breeding sites where introduced feral vertebrate species are present.
- The development of guidelines on biosecurity management and quarantine for breeding sites to assist with the development of plans to eradicate introduced vertebrates from breeding sites of ACAP species and to prevent their reintroduction.
- The development of guidelines for translocations of albatrosses and petrels to facilitate the formation of new breeding colonies, restoring colonies at sites from which species have been extirpated, increasing breeding distributions and preventing extirpation at existing sites where there are major threats.
- The development of sampling guidelines to assess plastic ingestion in ACAP species.

## Knowledge and data collection

- Consolidation of ACAP's status as the globally recognised and pre-eminent source of expertise and information on albatrosses and petrels listed under the Agreement.
- The regular collation of data and review of the population status and trend of all ACAP-listed species.
- The development of a standard, revised taxonomy for albatrosses – overcoming several taxonomic disputes. This revised taxonomy has been widely accepted by nations and international organisations, including Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- The production and review of Species Assessments that summarise the scientific information for ACAP-listed species of albatrosses and petrels.
- The development of a comprehensive, online database on management of breeding sites, threats, population size, bycatch rates and other information used to review progress in research and conservation, and prioritise the work of ACAP.
- The production of guidelines on the planning and implementation of surveys for surface-nesting and burrow-nesting ACAP species.

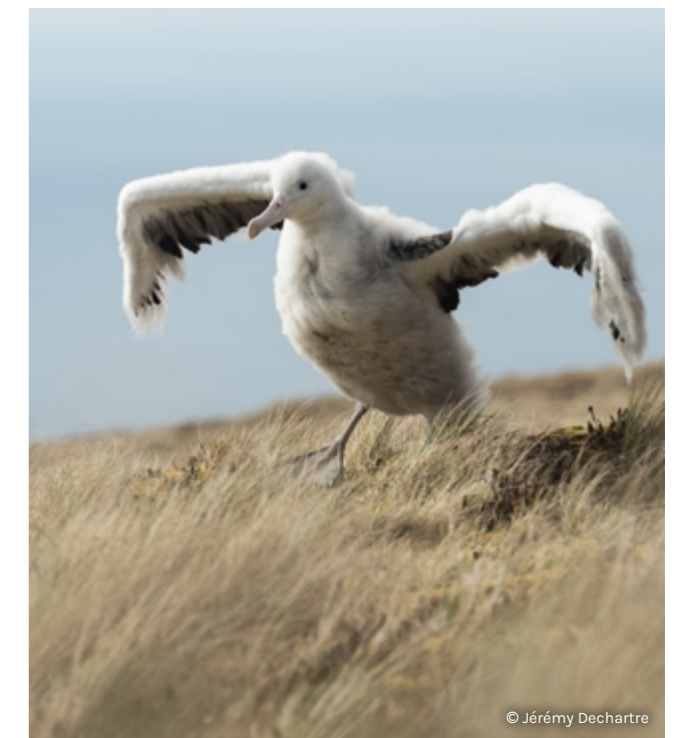


## Capacity building and outreach

- Funding of 87 research and secondment projects as capacity building initiatives to the value of AUD 1,430,000.
- The development of a communications strategy to convey the conservation crisis facing many albatross and petrel populations, including the identification of key messages and activities for the priority target audiences.
- From 2020, the annual celebration of World Albatross Day on 19 June, to give greater visibility to albatross conservation.
- The development and provision of ACAP guidelines on addressing the risks to seabirds of the high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak.
- Support to initiatives that assess socio-economic factors that may prevent the adoption or implementation of seabird measures.

## Organisational

- In 2007, the signing of a (subsequently renewed) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of the State of Tasmania, which provides ongoing assistance to ACAP.
- In 2008, establishment of a permanent Secretariat, headquartered in Hobart.
- In 2008, the signing of a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Australia.
- The development of a close, cooperative relationship with inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations relevant to, or with an interest in, seabird conservation. A highlight has been the signing of cooperation arrangements with 11 organisations (RFMOs, conservation organisations and research bodies), to enhance cooperation and information exchange between them and ACAP.



# Future Opportunities and Challenges for ACAP

Against the backdrop of an ongoing conservation crisis for many albatross and petrel species, ACAP faces significant challenges in its efforts to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for the 31 species listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. However, there are also opportunities created by ACAP's growing agenda and innovative technological developments.

## Challenges

- The overall conservation status of ACAP-listed species continues to deteriorate.

### Seabird bycatch mitigation

- Although effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures have been identified, and are regularly reviewed and updated by ACAP, there is an apparent low level of implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation in domestic and international fisheries, including the domestic fisheries of ACAP Parties.
- The time lag between ACAP updating its Best Practice Advice and the adoption of updated conservation measures by ACAP Parties, non-Party Range States, RFMOs and other entities.
- While many countries and organisations have National Plans of Action (NPOAs) to minimise the incidental capture of seabirds in fisheries, the Plans may not be up to date and many have not been fully implemented.
- There are few reliable fishery monitoring programmes that assess compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- Continued challenges in developing effective mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch in trawl and demersal longline fisheries.
- The difficulty in developing seabird bycatch mitigation advice for small scale and artisanal fisheries because of the diversity of fishing vessels and fishing practices.

### Mitigation of other threats

- The high cost and logistical difficulties of eradication programmes to rid breeding sites of invasive species.
- The difficulties in mitigating the impacts of disease, including the currently (2023-2024) widespread high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI).

### Capacity building and outreach

- The need to develop a greater understanding of economic and social factors affecting the implementation of seabird conservation measures.

### Knowledge and data collection

- Significant issues persist in the collection of reliable seabird bycatch data and the collection of data to accurately assess compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- The high cost and logistical difficulties of maintaining regular long term population monitoring programmes for many remote breeding sites.

### Organisational

- While some non-Parties attend ACAP meetings as observers and participate actively in ACAP's work, there have been no new accessions to the Agreement since 2009. Encouraging additional engagement (and ideally accession) by non-Party Range States remains a priority.
- Limited capacity available in the Secretariat, amongst ACAP officials and in ACAP Parties.



## Opportunities

### Seabird bycatch mitigation

- For ACAP Parties to fully implement ACAP Best Practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures in their fisheries to reduce seabird bycatch and serve as an example to others.
- To continue ACAP participation in reviews by fisheries certification schemes (as ACAP did in the recent Marine Stewardship Council review) to improve certification standards and thereby reduce seabird bycatch.
- Participation in Phase 2 of the FAO ABNJ Common Oceans Tuna Project, which aims to improve understanding of and compliance with mitigation measures as well as consolidating knowledge of risks to seabirds.
- The completion of ACAP's analysis (for some RFMOs) of the current gaps between an RFMO's Conservation Management Measures and ACAP Best Practice Advice, which should drive revised and up-to-date conservation measures.
- Further collaboration among Parties to establish and implement regional plans of action to address seabird bycatch will enhance albatross and petrel conservation.
- To drive the development and implementation of fishery electronic monitoring systems to improve data on seabird bycatch and the implementation of mitigation measures.
- For ACAP Parties to complete or update their NPOA-Seabirds in response to the planned update of the FAO's International Plan of Action (IPOA)-Seabirds.

### Mitigation of other threats

- To support the planned (and yet-to-be planned) programmes to eradicate invasive species from breeding sites.

### Capacity building and outreach

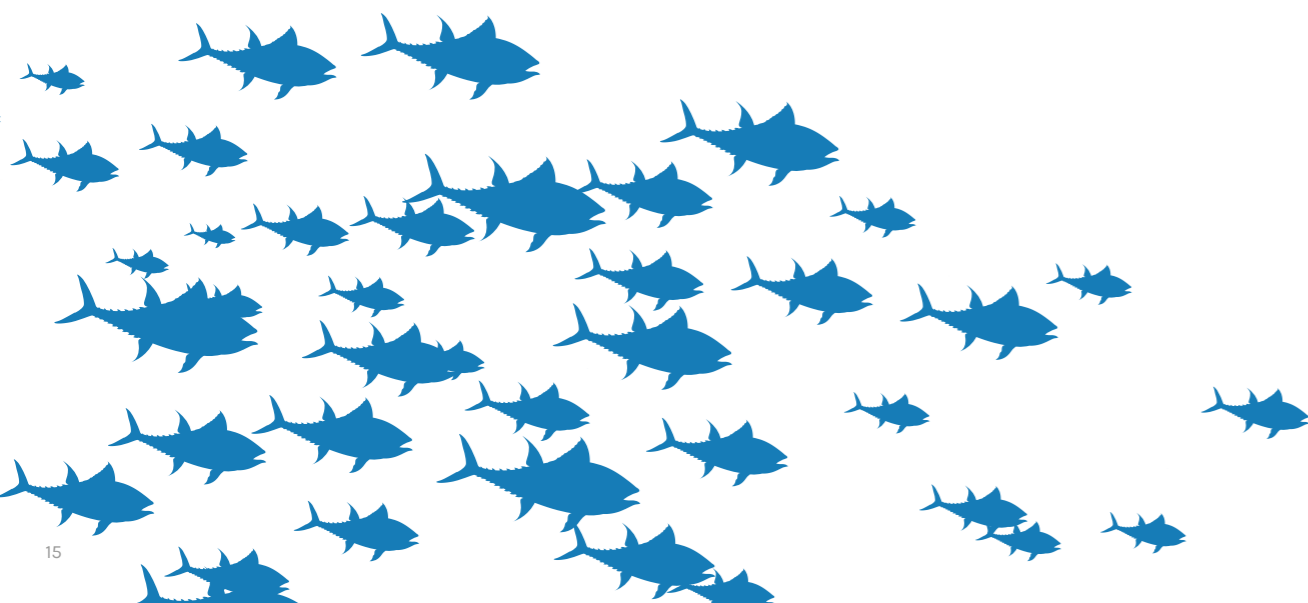
- To implement ACAP's Communications Strategy and spread the message of the conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels and the importance of implementing effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- To continue and expand ACAP's Small Grants and Secondments schemes to provide further opportunities for capacity building and focused research projects.

### Knowledge and data collection

- To promote the development of new mitigation measures that will increase the suite of options available to fishers and encourage greater use of seabird bycatch mitigation.
- To promote the development and implementation of new technologies that will streamline standardised data collection on seabird bycatch and the implementation of mitigation measures.
- To encourage best practice population monitoring practices as well as collection of data on albatross and petrel at-sea distribution.

### Organisational

- For more Range States to become parties to the Agreement. This will increase ACAP's influence and its ability to implement its work programmes.



# Capacity building

The effective implementation of the Agreement requires assistance to be provided to some ACAP Parties through capacity building.

ACAP's approach to capacity building aims to address problems concerning policy, methods of implementation and the understanding of conservation issues, while considering the potential, limits and needs of the Parties concerned.

Capacity building has been a focus of ACAP's work since the second Meeting of the Parties in 2006, and part of the work of the Advisory Committee and Secretariat since then. ACAP's approach to capacity building has evolved significantly and is presently underpinned by the Agreement's capacity building strategy that was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2018.

The objective of the strategy is to provide the Agreement with a framework guiding actions on capacity building. The capacity building strategy assists Parties and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Range States, and Observers) in building their capacity across research, administration, and training and monitoring programmes, leading to improved conservation of albatross and petrel species listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement. The strategy helps by optimising, to the maximum benefit, the use of ACAP's limited financial and human resources to achieve the objective of the Agreement and contribute to raising the profile of ACAP's agenda with all Parties, Range States and Observers.

The capacity building strategy is understood as a long-term, continually improving process. Parties continue to give priority to capacity building through funding, training, information and institutional support, for the implementation of the Agreement.

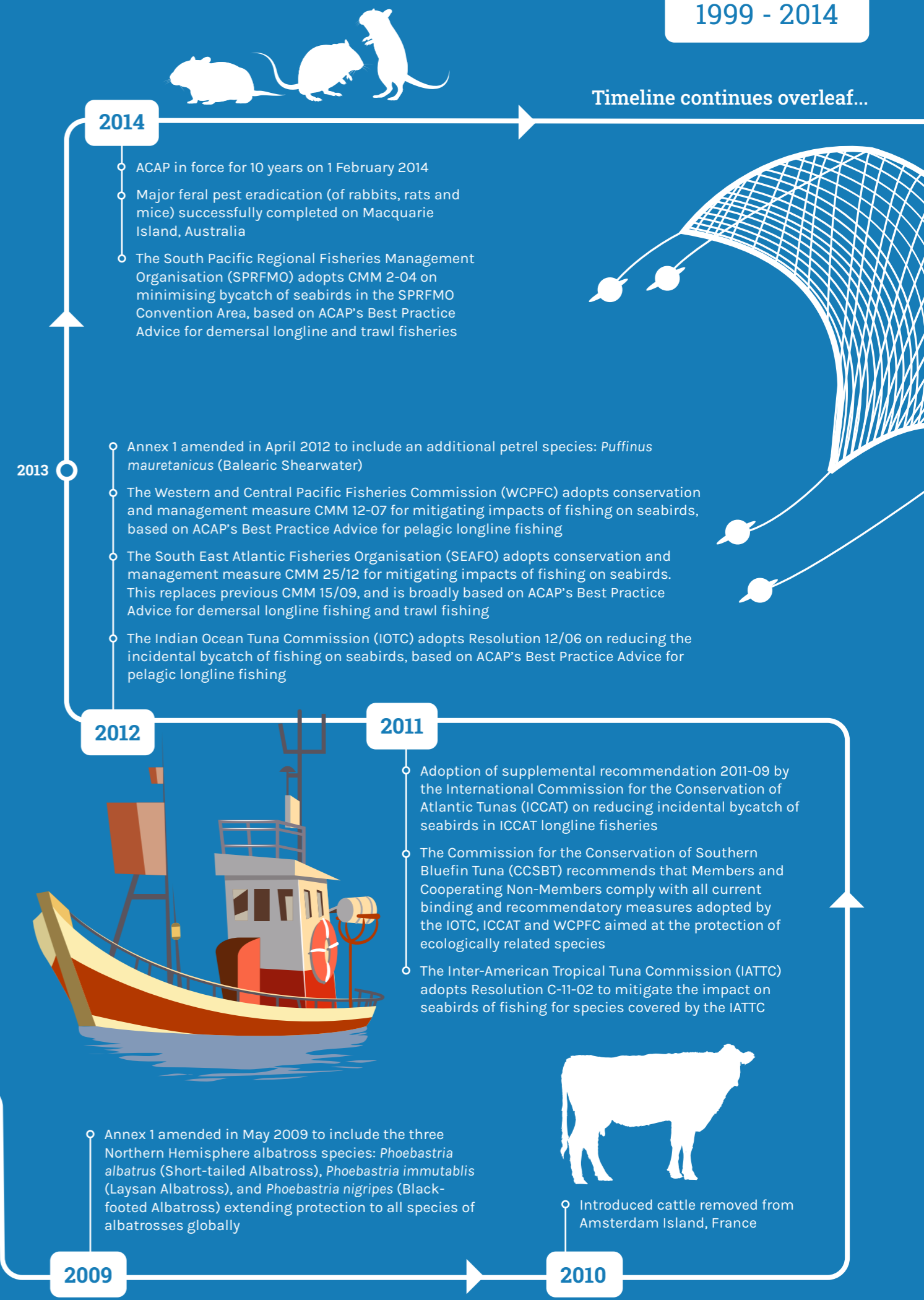
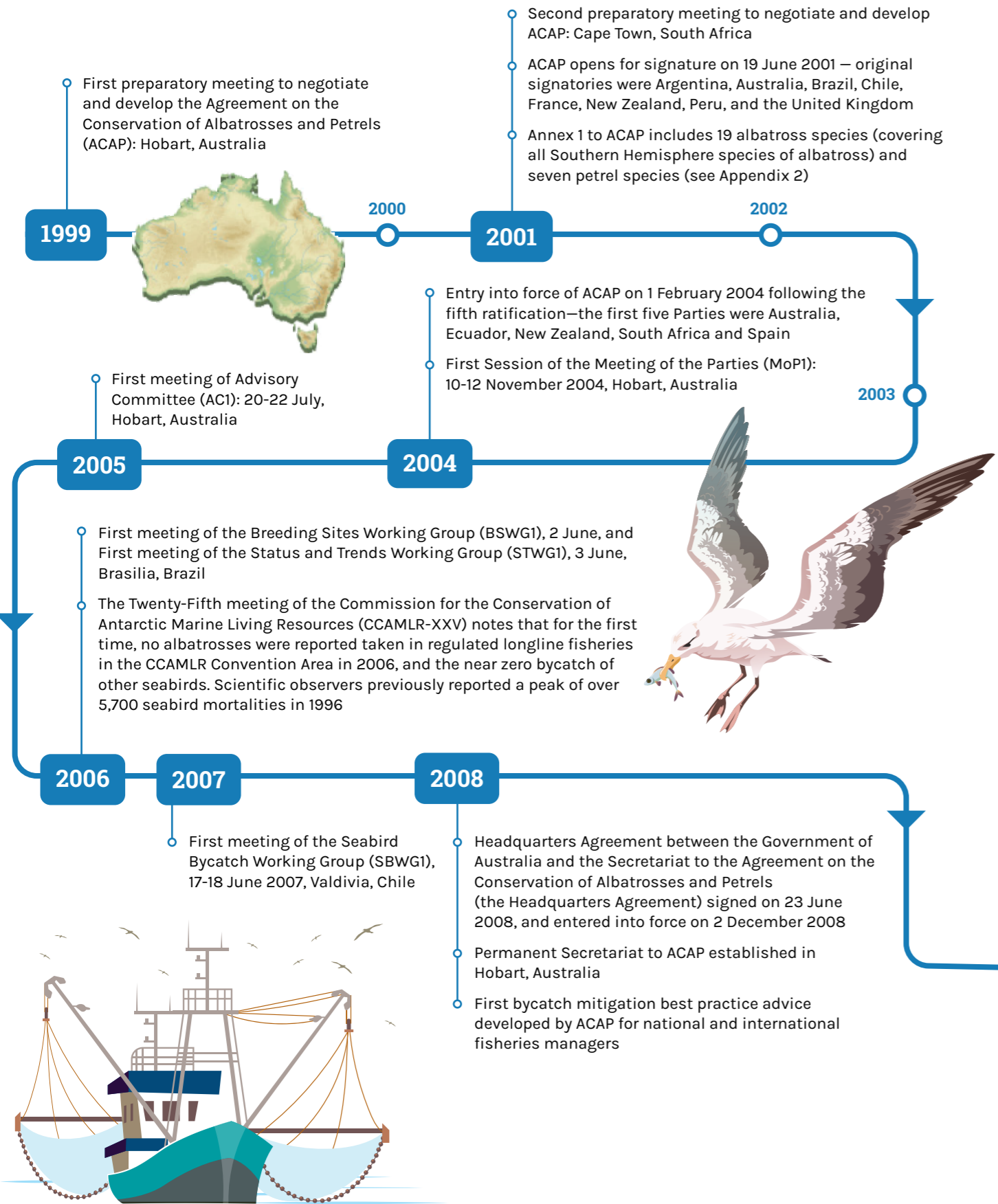
Capacity building actions are primarily supported through funds and resources from the Agreement's Advisory Committee and Secretariat. A flexible approach also applies when a Party (or other organisation) offering funds is interested in developing capacity in an area that has not been prioritised within the Agreement.

The Agreement's Small Grant Scheme and Secondment Programme are fundamental to the strategy, contributing to building capacities among ACAP Parties, Range States and other organisations. Funding of small grants and secondments is administered by a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee following a long-established process to allocate funds using a prioritised, consistent and transparent procedure from the Advisory Committee budgetary allocation.

There have been many projects and secondments completed during the 20 years the Agreement has been in force. Many members of the working groups of the Advisory Committee have been able to advance priority research and development opportunities with the support of a Small Grant provided by the Agreement. Several current and former ACAP officials have also benefited from secondment opportunities earlier in their careers. These recipients have made significant contributions during their careers to building capacities in their national agencies, institutions and organisations to advance the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.



# Timeline of Notable Actions concerning ACAP



Timeline continues overleaf...

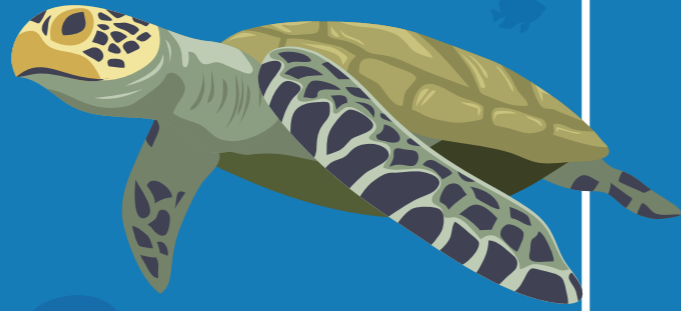
Timeline of Notable Actions relevant to ACAP

2015

- Addition of *Ardenna creatopus* (Pink-footed Shearwater) to ACAP's Annex 1
- The WCPFC adopts CMM 2015-03 which requires small vessels <24m in length to use at least one mitigation measure (weighted branchlines, tori line or night-setting)

2016

- ACAP's Eighth Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC8) updates best practice advice for reducing the impact of pelagic longline fisheries on seabirds to include hook-shielding devices
- On 19 December, ACAP signs a MOU with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)



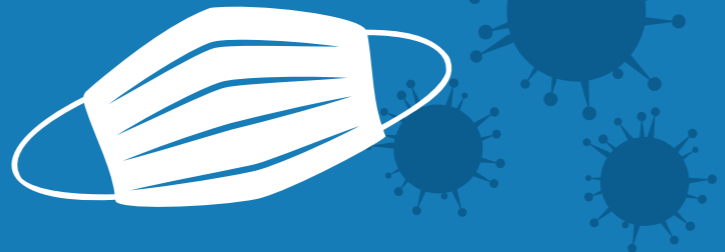
- ACAP's Sixth Meeting of the Parties (MoP6) adopts Resolution 6.8 enabling APEC member economies to participate in ACAP meetings as observers
- CCSBT adopts a new binding resolution which requires members to comply with relevant Environmentally Related Species (ERS) measures of ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC
- MOU signed in November between ACAP and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
- WCPFC adopts revised seabird measure (CMM 2018-03) on bycatch mitigation, which includes hook-shielding devices (to come into effect in 2020)
- MOU signed in December between ACAP and SEAFO
- Eradication of introduced reindeer, rats and mice completed on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>
- Mice eradicated from Antipodes Island, New Zealand

○ SPRFMO updates its CMM on seabird bycatch as CMM-09-2017, which sets out mitigation measures for demersal longline and trawl fishing, referring to ACAP Best Practice

2018



2017



- FAO ABNJ Common Oceans Tuna project (launched in 2014) conducts a global estimate of seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fishing in the Southern Hemisphere
- SIOFA adopts a Seabird CMM focused mainly on demersal longline fishing
- ACAP's 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC11) declares an ongoing conservation crisis facing albatrosses and petrels

○ The Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) Conference of the Parties (COP13) agrees to list the Antipodean Albatross on its Appendix 1 (which lists migratory species assessed as being in danger of extinction)

- First World Albatross Day celebration on 19 June with the theme "Eradicating Island Pests"
- ACAP's 12<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting (AC12) postponed to 2021 because of COVID-19

2019

2020

2021

- Second World Albatross Day celebrated, with the theme "Ensuring Albatross-friendly Fisheries"
- SIOFA's Meeting of the Parties adopts recommendations from its Scientific Committee for a review against ACAP advice of both data standards (CMM 2019-02) and seabird mitigation (CMM 2019-13)
- ACAP's Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) postponed to 2022 because of COVID-19

- ACAP's AC12 meets online; endorses updated mitigation measures (underwater bait setter and Hookpod-mini) and adopts guidelines on electronic monitoring systems and observer programme data gathering



2022



- ACAP presents a paper to a SIOFA meeting outlining how existing CMMs could be better aligned with ACAP Best Practice Advice
- ACAP's Meeting of the Parties (MoP7) held online in May
- Third World Albatross Day celebration on 19 June, with the theme "Climate Change"
- In July, ACAP issues advice on addressing the risks to seabirds of the high pathogenicity H5N1 avian influenza outbreak.
- CCSBT Extended Commission adopts Multi-Year Seabird Strategy
- CCAMLR reconvenes its Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fisheries (WG-IMAF) for the first time since 2011
- WCPFC Commission agrees to conduct a review of its current seabird measure against ACAP Best Practice

2023

- SPRFMO Commission agrees in January to a review of its Seabird-related CMMs (09-2017 and 02-2022). Subsequently, ACAP presents to the SPRFMO Scientific Committee a paper analysing how these measures align with ACAP advice
- The IOTC adopts Resolution 23/07 (*On reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries*), which shall enter into force on 1 July 2024, superseding Resolution 12/06
- The IATTC Working Group on Ecosystems and Bycatch-EBWG recommends development of an action plan for seabird bycatch, including an update of Resolution C-11-02 within the next two years

- ACAP's Advisory Committee (AC13) meets in person for the first time since 2019
- Fourth World Albatross Day celebrated, with the theme "Plastic Pollution"
- SEAFO Scientific Committee agrees that a review of ACAP's updated best practices in the context of SEAFO, will assist in the evaluation of SEAFO seabird CMM 25/12



2024

ACAP in force for 20 years on 1 February 2024



## Key Achievements:

# Argentina



Signed ACAP 19 January 2004  
Ratified 29 August 2006

Argentina ratified the Agreement in 2006 and began the process of developing its National Action Plan, which was completed in 2010.

The most important milestones summarizing years of work for the implementation of the Agreement in Argentina are presented here. These were made possible through coordination between government agencies, scientific and academic institutions, civil society, and the private sector, as well as ACAP's contribution to regional meetings and secondments.

Obtaining information on the status of populations and incidental catch in various fleets, the design and testing of mitigation measures for fisheries, and the effectiveness of implementation in some of them have been key to implementing the Agreement.

It is important to highlight private sector training in the use of mitigation measures, as well as public awareness and sensitization efforts.

Furthermore, Argentina has been active in conservation efforts to protect albatrosses and petrels in its maritime and Antarctic territories.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

The conservation of key areas for the protection of albatrosses and petrels has been significantly favored through the creation of marine protected areas. Such is the case of the Namuncurá Banco Burdwood Marine Protected Area, created by laws No. 26.875 and No. 27.490, which includes feeding areas for Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) mainly from colonies in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>, Gray-headed Albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*), and White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and Northern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes halli*) mainly from colonies located in South Georgia (Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> (Falabella et al. 2009). This MPA has an approved management plan to which a fisheries management plan in the process of approval will be added. Likewise, the Yaganes Marine Protected Area, created by Law No. 27.490, includes feeding areas for individuals from the Wandering Albatross colony (*Diomedea exulans*) from South Georgia (Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> (Dellacasa et al. 2018, see

"Waters East of Cape"), individuals of Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) from colonies in southern Chile and the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>, Gray-headed Albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*) from colonies in southern Chile, Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) from Observatory Island and South Georgia (Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> colonies, White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and Northern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes halli*) from colonies located in South Georgia (Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> (Falabella et al. 2009). Additionally, the Patagonia Austral Interjurisdictional Marine Coastal Park was created by national law No. 26.446 and provincial law No. 5.886, categorizing, according to the Management Plan, Arce and Gran Robredo islands as intangible areas (no-take) (PIMCPA 2018) and includes nesting areas, colony extension, and feeding grounds for the Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) from individuals coming from colonies of Arce and Gran Robredo islands (global 5%) (Dellacasa et al. 2018, see "Waters of Bahía Camarones and Golfo San Jorge").



## Management of Human Activities

### Fishing Activity

Measures related to longline fishing operations (Federal Fisheries Council Resolutions 8/2008 and 3/2017) were adopted, establishing the use of mitigation measures on freezer longline and trawler vessels. Trials were conducted in collaboration with the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (CONICET-UNMDP) to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of strategic discard management on freezer trawlers and the design of measures to reduce bird interaction in the anchovy fishery. The organization Aves Argentinas collaborated in the development and implementation of Bird Scaring Lines on trawler vessels.

### Offshore Exploration Activity

Since 2019, Joint Resolution 3/2019 of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Secretariat of Energy Government has been continuously implemented. This resolution approves the environmental impact assessment procedures for projects or activities related to hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. This includes the analysis of potential effects of this activity on ACAP species distributed in the area of interest.



## Research & Monitoring

Surveys of the Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) have been conducted from 1982 to the present on Arce and Gran Robredo Islands, from 1994 to 2016 on Observatory Island, and from 1971 to 2013 on López Peninsula.

Research on the distribution of seabirds and their interaction with fisheries has focused on emblematic species considered indicators of the state of the Argentine Sea and its insular sector, such as the Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) breeding on the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup> and the White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) breeding on South Georgia Islands (Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>.

Information from georeferenced databases acquired from inventoried data sources was surveyed, compiled, and organized, resulting in habitat use maps of the marine space for priority bird, mammal, and sea turtle species on the Argentine Continental Shelf. The information is available at <https://ciam.ambiente.gob.ar/geovisor.php><sup>3</sup>.

Through the Fisheries Research Assistant Programme (Onboard Observers) of commercial vessels operated by the National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP), information on seabird bycatch and mitigation measures is collected. The Institute developed a Marine Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles Interaction Loading Programme (PCMAR) aimed at incorporating all information adapted to each jurisdiction surveyed during fishing trips, both of target species captured and interactions with megafauna occurring during fishing outings. This process optimizes information loading and processing, thus expediting decision-making in fisheries management.

All these research and monitoring activities are successfully carried out thanks to collaboration between government agencies (INIDEP, Subsecretariat of Aquatic Resources and Fisheries, Subsecretariat of Environment, Federal Fisheries Council), national science and technology agencies (National Council for Scientific and Technical Research, National Universities, among others), civil society organizations (Aves Argentinas), and the participation of the fishing industry.



## Education and Public Awareness

Training was provided on the use of the "Marine Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles Interaction Loading Programme (PCMAR)", developed by INIDEP, and made available for use in the provinces. Additionally, the Subsecretariat of Environment organized workshops in the provinces of Santa Cruz, Rio Negro, and Tierra del Fuego aimed at strengthening jurisdictions in the systematization of information on megafauna interaction in fisheries within the framework of National Action Plans, as well as facilitating the exchange of experiences in data collection on incidental catch at both national and provincial levels.

An education document titled "Use of the marine environment by birds, mammals, and sea turtles in Argentina" was prepared, containing descriptions of turtle, bird, and marine mammal species inhabiting Argentine maritime spaces, as well as habitat use maps.

Activities related to training and awareness were carried out for the effective implementation of mitigation measures, promoting the development of responsible fishing practices in collaboration with Aves Argentinas.

Furthermore, aiming to create a public-private exchange space on techniques and practices of bycatch selectivity and incidental capture of megafauna, the "Workshop on Good Fishing Practices and Third Meeting of the Working Commission to strengthen measures to reduce bycatch in fisheries" was held in May 2023 in Puerto Madryn - Chubut, with the participation of experts in fishing gear from academia and the private sector, fishing authorities, scientists, and vessel personnel, from captains to crew members.



## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

The agreement is implemented within the framework of the National Action Plan to Reduce Bird Interactions with Fisheries in the Argentine Republic (PAN-Aves), approved in 2010 by Resolution 03/2010 of the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) and updated in 2019 (CFP Resolution 20/2020). The plan has five objectives related to: data collection, reduction of bycatch, training and awareness, strengthening implementation, and development of performance indicators. To fulfill the objectives, a Triennial Operational Plan (POT) is developed, updated, and implemented, detailing actions, tasks, deadlines, budgets, and responsible parties. Its update in 2019 was conducted through participatory workshops involving the scientific, technical, and academic sectors, fishing and environmental authorities, and representatives of the fishing industry. It is worth mentioning that the implementation of management measures established by the Federal Fisheries Council is monitored by the Fisheries Control and Inspection System of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

At the regional level, the Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (CTMFM) approved by Resolution CTMFM 04/2022 the Regional Action Plan to Reduce the Interaction of Seabirds with Fisheries in the Area of the Río de la Plata Treaty and its Maritime Front (PAR-Aves). Through this plan, Argentina and Uruguay bilaterally coordinate conservation actions in fisheries operating in waters jointly managed.



## Future Opportunities & Challenges

Continuing with the implementation of the National and Regional Action Plans will contribute to the conservation of seabirds and the mitigation of impacts from their interaction with fisheries, promoting and enhancing ecosystem-based management.

The need to expand observer coverage in the fishing fleet remains identified as a challenge to increase the acquisition of megafauna data. This information is essential for improving the understanding of incidental mortality in fisheries and the implementation of mitigation measures.

There is a recognized need to develop and implement mitigation measures, including strategic discards and waste management as a central measure to decrease the abundance of seabirds associated with fishing operations.

<sup>3</sup>This is a link to a website that is not affiliated with, nor endorsed by, ACAP. Nomenclature therein should be read in the context of ACAP Resolution 2.9 of 2006, which mandates the use of dual nomenclature for Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas and South Georgia/Islas Georgia del Sur.



## Key Achievements: Australia



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 4 October 2001

Australia has an extensive maritime jurisdiction within which there are 18 species of albatrosses and six species of petrels. Eight of these species breed on remote offshore islands adjacent to Tasmania, in the sub-Antarctic and the Antarctic.

Although Australian breeding and/or foraging populations of albatrosses and petrels, other than the endemic Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*), generally represent a small proportion of global populations, these species make a significant contribution to Australia's biodiversity.

Australia played a leading role in establishing ACAP after Australian researchers identified that bycatch in longline fisheries was causing declines in local seabird populations. Australia recognised that in the absence of effective international conservation action, Australia would be unable to secure the conservation of threatened albatrosses and petrels that breed and forage within Australia's jurisdiction.

Australia considers that ACAP provides an important framework for international cooperation to establish and improve conservation measures concerning seabird bycatch mitigation in fisheries, to improve conservation of breeding populations of albatrosses and petrels on land, and to address generalised threats to these affected species.



### Species Conservation

- Australian laws incorporate a series of measures that contribute to the conservation and protection of albatrosses and petrels on land and at sea.
- Implemented successive National Recovery Plans for albatrosses and petrels since 2001.
- Eradicated invasive species from Macquarie Island, with this UNESCO World Heritage Site declared pest free in 2014.



### Habitat Conservation & Restoration

- All Australian breeding islands are subject to protected area arrangements that include strict biosecurity requirements and visitor limitations.
- Australian fisheries are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis that aims to maintain ecological relationships and provide for the needs of non-target species.
- Created marine reserves that limit fishing around key breeding sites in Australia's sub-Antarctic jurisdiction, including the recent expansion of the Macquarie Island Marine Park by 300% to now cover an area of over 475,000 km<sup>2</sup>.



### Management of Human Activities

- All ACAP species occurring in Australia are listed as protected species under Australian legislation.
- Implemented successive Threat Abatement Plans for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations, since 1995.
- Implemented a National Plan of Action for minimising the incidental catch of seabirds in Australian capture fisheries in 2018 that applies across Australia's state and federal jurisdictions.



### Research & Monitoring

- Encouraged uptake of innovative solutions to reduce bycatch in longline and trawl fisheries including best practice branch line weighting; safer, cheaper designs for line weights; use of hook shielding devices; underwater bait setter; and approaches for avoiding warp strikes in trawl fisheries.
- Investigated approaches to improve safety when retrieving branch lines in pelagic longline fisheries.
- Developed innovative methods to resolve species identification and seabird foraging ecology using genetic and other techniques.
- Maintained long-term population monitoring programs for seven ACAP-listed species on Tasmanian Islands.
- Implemented on board observer programs and electronic monitoring schemes in longline fisheries with prescribed data collection on seabird bycatch and seabird bycatch rates.



### Education and Public Awareness

- Published online information on incidental catch of seabirds, in federal fisheries including of ACAP-listed species.
- Developed resources to raise awareness and understanding of seabird conservation including recognition of World Albatross Day, identification guides, and education programs for fishers.



### Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

- Australian officials and scientists have provided extensive support to ACAP entities including as Chairs of the Meeting of the Parties, and the Advisory Committee, as convenors/co-convenors of working groups.
- Australia hosts the ACAP Secretariat in Hobart, Tasmania, and is the Depositary Government for ACAP.
- Supported adoption of conservation and management measures that aim to mitigate seabird bycatch in regional fisheries management organisations and Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.



### Future Opportunities & Challenges

- Improving the conservation status of Australia's albatrosses and petrels so that these species are on a trajectory towards no longer being threatened in Australia's jurisdiction.
- Enhancing seabird mitigation measures in Australian longline fisheries and extending these measures to other fishing methods.
- Engaging in regional forums, and through strengthened partnerships with ACAP Parties, to strategically address challenges to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, as these species still face unacceptably high incidental mortalities in high seas fisheries that are causing ongoing population declines.
- Developing collaborative responses to emerging threats to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, including as a consequence of climate change, offshore wind farms, marine plastics and disease outbreaks.



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Key Achievements:

# Brazil



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 3 September 2008

**Brazil has participated in the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) since its first preparatory meetings, in Australia in 2000 and South Africa in 2001, and contributed to the development of the Agreement, together with 15 other countries.**

ACAP was opened for signature in June 2001, and Brazil was one of the first countries to sign it, with its ratification process completed in 2008. Even before ratification, Brazil has always been proactive in implementing the actions provided by the Agreement. Being present at all technical meetings, Brazil provided results from research carried out on board fishing vessels aimed at mitigating the capture of seabirds in longline fishing gear. Brazil is also responsible for developing scientific research on mitigating the impact of pelagic longlines on populations of albatrosses and petrels that occur in Brazilian jurisdictional waters. This research resulted in significant contributions to the ACAP recommendations for bycatch mitigation, such as the development by a Brazilian fisherman of a shorter ribbon tori line (bird-scaring line), better adapted and efficient in minimizing bycatch with smaller vessels. This model proved to be suitable for the reality of the national and South American fleet and for this reason, it was adopted by ACAP as one of the recommended mitigation measures.

Brazil's participation in ACAP is of fundamental importance for national fisheries management and the conservation of endangered albatross and petrel species. ACAP has enabled Brazilian scientists to undertake secondments in research centres in other parts of the world over the last 20 years, highlighting that the topics learned and discussed within ACAP had already led to regulations and best practices adopted by Brazil as a Party to the Agreement.

In Brazil, the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (PLANACAP) is the main national management instrument to implement ACAP best practices, and guidance. ACAP is considered by PLANACAP essential for the continuous effort to qualify, subsidize, and bring together all Brazilian and international, governmental and non-governmental, initiatives related to the conservation of these species. PLANACAP, since 2006, has been very proactive in the effort to overcome difficulties encountered in minimizing threats to species of albatrosses and petrels that occur in Brazil, notably concentrating efforts on mitigating bycatch of birds threatened by fisheries, among other actions. PLANACAP is finishing its 3rd cycle, covering seven taxa that are nationally threatened with extinction, with the general objective of "Reducing the mortality of albatrosses and petrels caused by human actions, especially by bycatch". Only migratory oceanic taxa whose bycatch is the main threat are the focus of PLANACAP. The importance of maintaining PLANACAP covering only Procellariiformes and its focus on oceanic threats rather than coastal and island threats is justified due to the commitments made by Brazil to ACAP. For almost all the past 20 years PLANACAP has had the following specific objectives: encourage compliance with current legislation to mitigate bycatch of albatrosses and petrels; develop research to diagnose and mitigate threats to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels; develop and implement national and international public policies for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels; and develop and implement environmental education, communication, education and training actions aimed at the conservation of albatrosses and petrels. The partnership with the Albatroz Institute (Projeto Albatroz) and the National Centre for Bird Conservation and Research (CEMAVE/ICMBio) is essential for carrying out these activities.

One of the most relevant topics for PLANACAP relates to the reduction of Procellariiformes mortality due to bycatch in Brazil. The topic has received strong guidance from ACAP for two decades, which resulted in the review of Inter-Ministerial Normative Instruction (INI) No. 4, signed by the Ministries of the Environment (MMA) and Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA) of Brazil on 15/04/2011. Over the last 20 years, Brazil updated its legal framework on bycatch with a new regulation that came into full force on 1. May 2015. The INI MMA/MPA no. 7, published on 30 October 2014, makes the use of three ACAP recommendations mandatory, which are the use of bird-scaring lines (tori lines), with suspended ribbons to scare away birds when casting longlines; longline setting at night when fewer seabirds are active and foraging; and the use of a standardized weight system, which makes the hook sink more quickly. The new INI also included safety measures for fishers, a constant concern of ACAP, as it provides greater flexibility in the weight regime for setting hooks.

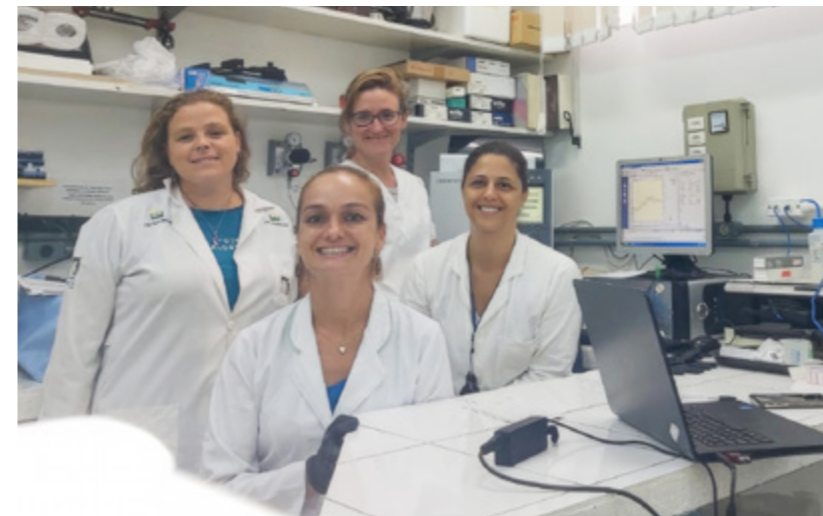
This national legal framework established updates to the composition of bycatch mitigation measures, adopting some recommendations proposed in the ACAP Best Practice Guidance and incorporating some new points about the safety of fishing operations. Its construction and elaboration would not have been possible or effective without the technical support obtained by Brazil by participating in ACAP.

ACAP has directly financed with Small Grants important Brazilian research for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels and for reducing the risk of mortality during fishing activities. The data obtained in these surveys were always presented and discussed at ACAP meetings, becoming a

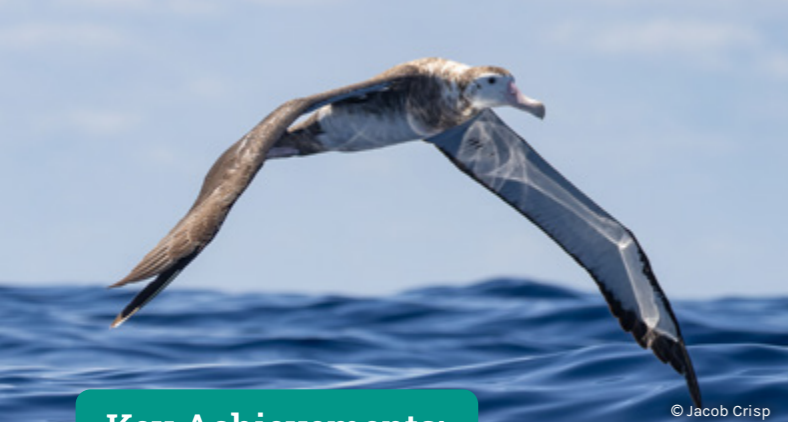
national and international point of reference. Examples include experiments using safer and more efficient fishing instruments, such as "lumo leads" and "hook pods", carried out by Projeto Albatroz with funding from ACAP and whose results were presented during Advisory Committee meetings. Other PLANACAP actions supported in Brazil by ACAP focus on studies of the prevalence of plastic in these birds and the maintenance of the health of populations of threatened albatrosses and petrels. The main objective of these initiatives has been to strengthen and develop research, management actions and public policies focusing on maintaining the health of the environment and populations.

Some results from the last PLANACAP cycle that were motivated by the participation of Brazil in ACAP and that add to the results of the Agreement for the last 20 years include:

- gradual expansion of longline fleet inspection actions.
- increase in the number of training courses carried out with fishers in ports.
- the development of a Standard Operational Plan for inspection based on data from the National Programme for Tracking Fishing Vessels by Satellite (PREPS), with identification of night setting.
- carrying out a pilot project to use electronic monitoring as a means of verifying the adoption of mitigation measures at sea, initiated with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio).



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## Key Achievements:

# Chile



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 13 September 2005

Chile is a hub of seabird biodiversity where approximately 109 species have been reported (Schlatter and Simeone, 1999).

Of these, 77 have proven reproduction on the national territory (continental, insular and Antarctic) and currently 13 (17%) are classified globally in some category of threat by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Tomita, 2020). On the other hand, of the 22 albatross species protected by ACAP, at least 12 regularly visit Chile's jurisdictional waters during their migrations, while two have established colonies in the southern islands of the national territory. In 2005, Chile ratified the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), and in 2007, the first National Plan of Action was developed to reduce bycatch in longline fisheries.<sup>4</sup>

Over the last 20 years, the country has contributed to the conservation of seabirds through various actions, including, in particular: **i)** the incorporation of the Pink-footed Shearwater<sup>5</sup> to the list of ACAP species; **ii)** the organisation of a bycatch monitoring and control system using onboard scientific observers as well as EMS, **iii)** innovative mitigation measures in national and international longline fisheries by using the Cachalotera or Line weighting - Chilean System,<sup>6</sup> which led to a reduction in the mortality rate of seabirds in longline fishing operations for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*)<sup>7</sup> down to almost zero; **iv)** the implementation of mitigation measures and good fishing practices to reduce seabird bycatch in longline<sup>8</sup> and trawl fisheries,<sup>9,10</sup> including the use of bird-scaring lines, bird buffers and other devices, as appropriate, **v)** mandatory discard and bycatch reduction plans in Chilean fisheries, **vi)** the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements, **vii)** support for seabird conservation and international catch reduction initiatives in international fisheries fora, **viii)** the creation of a national seabird group, **ix)** support for the development of a national seabird conservation strategy, among other achievements.

Fisheries management has moved from a focus on landings and fishing records to an ecosystem approach based on a precautionary principle whereby seabirds and their interaction with fishing activities are taken as priority elements. This has prompted a series of actions and measures and created a fount of learning that the country is keen to share with the international community.

<sup>4</sup> [www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/articulos-79723\\_recurso\\_1.pdf](https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/articulos-79723_recurso_1.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.acap.aq/es/documentos/resoluciones/2617-resolucion-5-1-enmienda-al-anexo-1-del-acuerdo/file>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.acap.aq/es/recursos/captura-incidental/hoja-informativa/1471-hoja-informativa-04-palangre-demersal-el-uso-de-peso-en-la-linea-el-sistema-chileno/file>

## Species Conservation

In March 2020, the Council of Ministers for Sustainability adopted a Recovery, Conservation and Management Plan<sup>11</sup> for the Pink-footed Shearwater (RECOGE-FB in Spanish) which pursues three objectives: **a)** To reduce maritime threats, **b)** To reduce terrestrial threats, and **c)** To increase collaborative work and outreach. These objectives are developed in ten lines of action. For its part, the Undersecretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in accordance with its competencies and relationship with ACAP, is leading on objective **a)** which is related to threats at sea. The cost of implementing the RECOGE-FB Plan (*Ardenna creatopus*) is estimated to be USD 4.59 million contemplating a 20-year horizon.

Furthermore, as regards conservation matters, Chile has a hunting law in force which is duly regulated<sup>12</sup> and generally prohibits the hunting or capture of wildlife specimens catalogued as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, near threatened or data deficient. This list includes albatross, petrel and shearwater species present in the national territory.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

One of the species with the greatest impact on Pink-footed Shearwater breeding colonies are invasive species present at nesting sites.<sup>13</sup> Hence, the RECOGE FB plan includes this threat as a priority and is contemplating an invasive species eradication programme, as well as efforts to mitigate the effects of domestic pets and to restore nesting areas. Currently, the NGO Oikonos is running responsible pet ownership and sterilisation campaigns in the main nesting territories of this species. They not only erected a fence to keep exotic species away from the main colony on Robinson Crusoe Island, but also, in collaboration with the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), they eradicated rabbits on Santa Clara Island.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.ifop.cl/wp-content/contenidos/uploads/Repositorioifop/InformeFinal/2023/P-581191\\_seccion2.pdf](https://www.ifop.cl/wp-content/contenidos/uploads/Repositorioifop/InformeFinal/2023/P-581191_seccion2.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-84597\\_documento.pdf](https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-84597_documento.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-105375\\_documento.pdf](https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-105375_documento.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-112252\\_documento.pdf](https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/615/articulos-112252_documento.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.diariooficial.interior.gob.cl/publicaciones/2022/03/10/43199/01/2096476.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.sag.gob.cl/sites/default/files/ley\\_de\\_caza\\_y\\_su\\_reglamento\\_2015.pdf](https://www.sag.gob.cl/sites/default/files/ley_de_caza_y_su_reglamento_2015.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/felis-et-al-2019-migration-of-pink-footed-shearwater-by-land-based-artificial.pdf>



## Management of Human Activities

Shearwater nesting sites are particularly at risk from light pollution due to tourism and urban growth.<sup>14</sup> The RECOGE-FB Plan includes lines of action to minimise the local consumption of shearwater chicks and to reduce mortality due to human infrastructure. Moreover, in order to reduce the threat of light pollution to birds, a Seabird Friendly Lighting Guide was created in 2022.<sup>15</sup> The NGO Oikonos also changed street lighting in the community living on Robinson Crusoe Island, which led to a reduction in the number of Pink-footed Shearwater falls during the fledgling season.



## Research & Monitoring

With respect to research, in the last ten years, key contributions have been made to scientific knowledge about bycatch. These include ongoing programmes to monitor seabird bycatch, undertaken by scientific observers onboard national fisheries vessels, as well as State-financed studies (Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura - Undersecretary of Fisheries and Aquaculture) executed by the Fisheries Promotion Institute (*Instituto de Fomento Pesquero* - IFOP). These programmes provide a set-by-set monitoring database for several fisheries, recording bycatch from 2015 to 2021 that will soon be updated with information from 2022. The use of business intelligence tools makes it possible to identify those spatial-temporal sites where bycatch is most intense, enabling a targeted search for solutions based on the use of scientific data (**Figure 1**). Historical analyses of fishing fleets and seabird catches have also been published.<sup>16</sup>

The incorporation of the Pink-footed Shearwater in the ACAP species list has contributed significantly to the production of several scientific documents, all of great interest for the conservation of this species.<sup>17,18,19</sup>

Added to the above is a more complete listing of scientific information on the Pink-footed Shearwater as published to date.<sup>20</sup>

The mandatory use of EMS (Image Recording Devices - DRI and Electronic Logging System - ELS) has recently been incorporated to carry out at-sea monitoring of compliance with and recording of seabird bycatch reduction measures. The application differs according to the type of fleet, as do the maintenance and improvement of observation programmes for scientific purposes. These systems will make it possible to monitor 100% of the fishing activity undertaken by industrial fleets from 2020. The measures will also apply to artisanal fleets with vessels of lengths equal to or greater than 15 m but only as of January 2024, due to certain technical and regulatory challenges that had to be resolved previously.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rodr-et-al-2017-Seabird-mortality-induced-by-land-based-artificial.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/Guia\\_iluminacion\\_amigable.pdf](https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/Guia_iluminacion_amigable.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> a) <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsz001>

b) <https://www.acap.aq/documents/working-groups/seabird-bycatch-working-group/sbwg11/sbwg11-meeting-documents/4190-sbwg11-doc-20-bycatch-rates-for-trawling-fleets-in-chile-2015-2021-summary/file>

c) <https://www.acap.aq/documents/working-groups/seabird-bycatch-working-group/seabird-bycatch-wg-meeting-9/sbwg9-information-papers/3363-sbwg9-inf-08-assessment-of-the-risk-of-trawl-and-longline-fisheries-to-acap-listed-seabirds-in-chile/file>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/felis-et-al-2019-migration-of-pink-footed-shearwater.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Carle-et-al-pink-footed-shearwaters-fisheries.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.oikonos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/adams-et-al-2019-pfsh-diving.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/cameras-reveal-acap-listed-pink-footed-shearwaters-face-threats-from-introduced-cats-and-rats?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/featuring-acap-listed-species-and-their-photographers-the-pink-footed-shearwater-by-hector-gutierrez-guzman?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/sooty-shearwater-mortality-in-chile-coincides-with-the-purse-seine-fishery?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/albatross-task-force-chile-produce-two-quick-guides-to-help-reduce-seabird-bycatch?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/assessing-light-pollution-impacts-on-pink-footed-shearwaters-and-other-seabirds-in-chile?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/chile-s-acap-listed-pink-footed-shearwater-gets-a-recovery-conservation-and-management-plan?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/oikonos-talks-to-acap-latest-news-on-its-winged-ambassadors-ocean-literacy-through-the-eyes-of-albatross-programme-and-world-albatross-day?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

- <https://www.acap.aq/latest-news/at-risk-to-gill-nets-longlines-and-purse-seines-tracking-pink-footed-shearwaters-on-migration?highlight=WyjcmVhdG9wXMiXQ==>

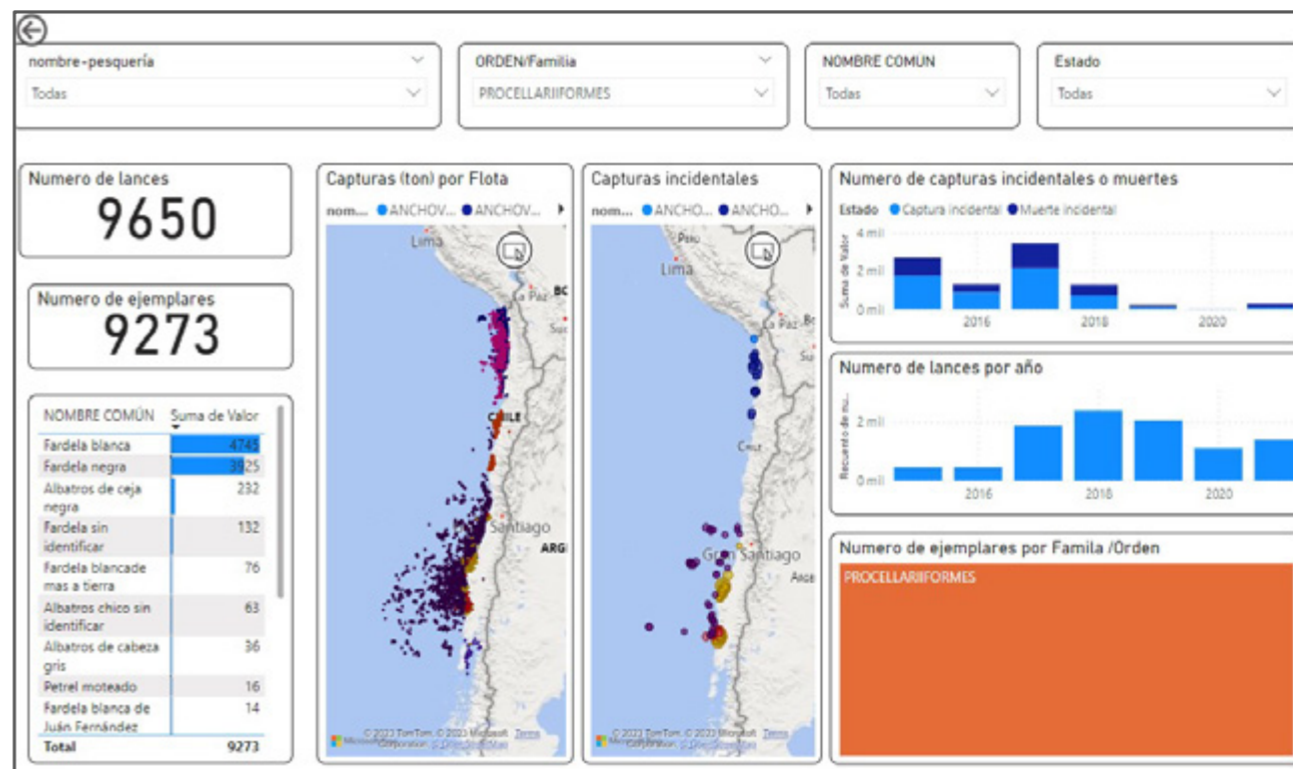


Figure 1. Dashboard showing arrays of geo-referenced and temporal haul records from 2015 to 2021 for purse seine fisheries in Chile.

## Education and Public Awareness

In this area, of particular note is the organisation of the first World Albatross Day (WAD 2020);<sup>21</sup> the preparation of identification guides, and the frequent participation of the Management Committees of various national fisheries in operational meetings, where the emphasis was on the importance of reducing seabird bycatch. Additionally, in 2019, Chile signed a contract to share information on fishing vessel operations with Global Fishing Watch,<sup>22</sup> enabling the public to access information about fishing vessel locations and courses.

Also, the NGO Oikonos is running an ongoing environmental education programme targeting the schools located in the territories where the Pink-footed Shearwater nests. This includes "The Shearwater Cup" held on Mocha Island, a soccer championship that has been going for 10 years, which offers an opportunity to highlight conservation issues and raise awareness about this species and the need to care for its habitat.

## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

Specific seabird bycatch reduction measures were enacted in 2014, 2019 and 2021 for longline, industrial and artisanal trawl fleets, establishing the mandatory use of deterrent devices along with the implementation of codes of good fishing practices and the requirement to report these events in electronic fishing logs, among others. These components are applied differently depending on the fishery in question, the gear used, and the fleet type.

Notwithstanding the lack of mitigation measures for purse seine fisheries, there has been a discard and bycatch programme in place since 2014 where work has been done to identify the rates of impact on species such as the Pink-footed Shearwater. Fishing has also been prohibited in general terms in the vicinity of aggregations of seabirds.

## Future Opportunities & Challenges

In 2018, Chile and New Zealand<sup>23</sup> signed an agreement to work together to protect the birds that both countries have in common. This agreement involves supporting initiatives that aim to make it possible to implement mitigation measures. Thus, Chile has recently pledged to co-sponsor the "Seabird-Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit" initiative,<sup>24</sup> presented by New Zealand to the APEC forum in 2023.

The greatest short-term challenge for the country is the reduction of seabird bycatch, especially regarding the shearwater group in Chile's purse seine fishery. Another key issue is the search to identify new practices and mitigation measures for all fisheries that significantly affect resident and visiting seabirds in our seas.

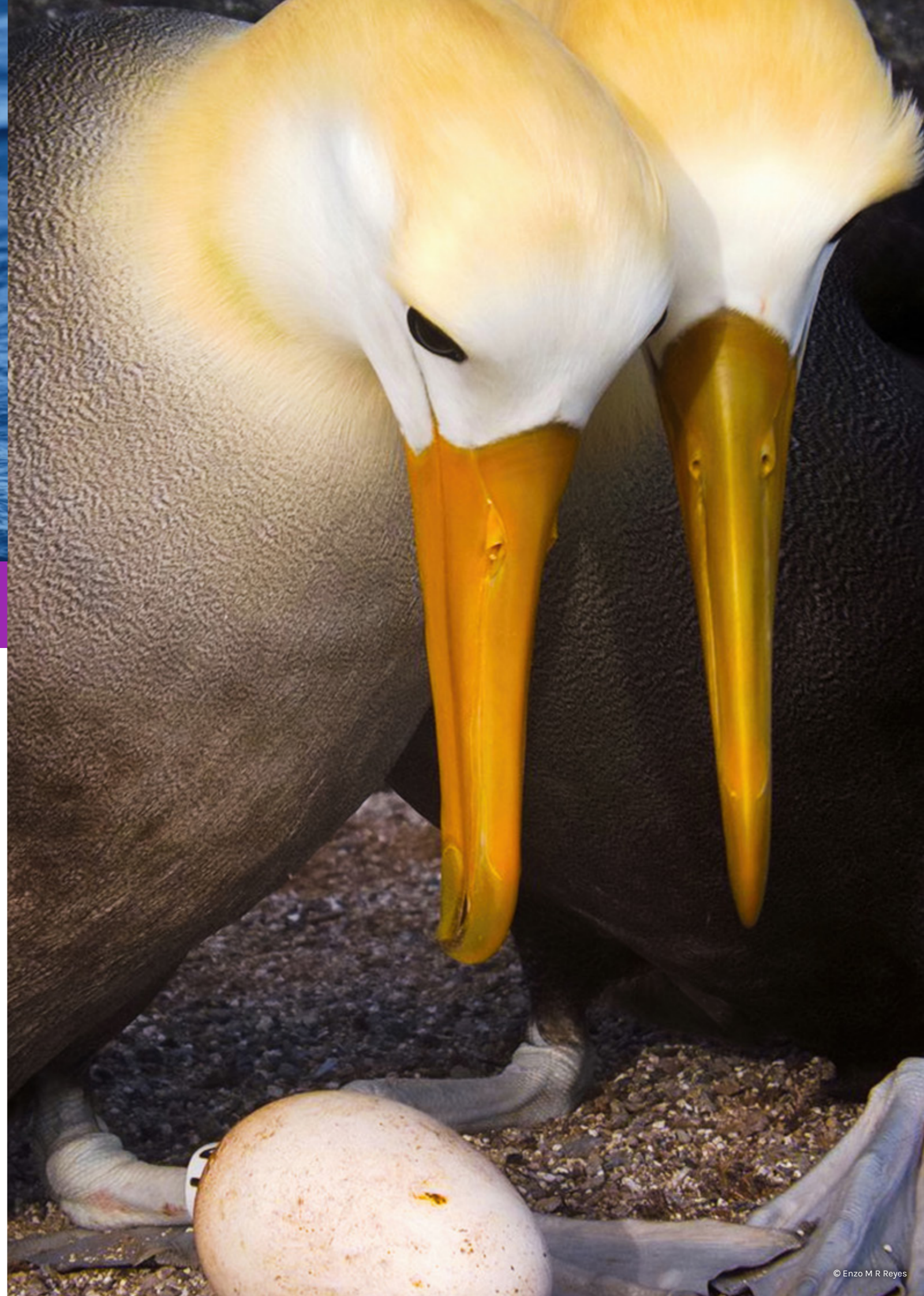
<sup>21</sup> <https://www.paiscircular.cl/biodiversidad/chile-tiene-la-presidencia-del-primer-dia-mundial-de-los-albatros/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://fb.watch/olZFsh0CW2/>

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/articles-105963\\_recurso\\_1.pdf](https://www.subpesca.cl/portal/616/articles-105963_recurso_1.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> <https://aimp2.apec.org/sites/PDB/Lists/Proposals/DispForm.aspx?ID=3325>





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### Key Achievements:

## Ecuador



Signed ACAP 18 February 2003  
Ratified 18 February 2003

**Ecuador works through its public institutions, including the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (*Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica - MAATE*) and the Institute for Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (*Instituto de investigación acuicultura y pesca - IPIAP*), to develop activities aimed at promoting the protection, conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and its ecosystems, in compliance with current environmental regulations, including international treaties and agreements.**

Ecuador has developed several tools and regulations to protect and conserve wildlife and ecosystems, such as the declaration of protected areas. There are currently eight marine protected areas in Ecuador: 1.- Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve, 2.- Santa Clara Island Marine Refuge, 3.- Bajo Copé Marine Reserve, 4.- Galapagos Marine Reserve, 5.- Cantagallo-Machalilla Marine Reserve, 6.- El Pelado Marine Reserve; and, 7.- Puerto Cabuyal - Punta San Clemente Marine Reserve and the Hermandad Marine Reserve. This last conservation area, declared in January 2023, has an area of 60,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and complements the current Galapagos Marine Reserve. MAATE has also developed, formalised and implemented several action plans to protect and conserve threatened species and ecosystems, such as Ecuador's participation in the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Action Plan (*Plan de acción para conservación de Albatros y Petreles - PACAP*).

In this regard, and as part of the activities arising from the aforementioned conservation instruments, it should be noted that Ecuador is "monitoring the interaction of seabirds with fisheries", focusing on vessels using trawls, surface longlines, purse seines and demersal longlines as fishing gear, as part of a research project.

Educational activities have also been carried out to raise awareness of the need to protect and conserve seabird species, including workshops for different stakeholders and users of fishery resources. These include Ecuadorian tuna fishing associations, who have been trained in the identification of seabirds, including the following species: Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) and Galapagos Petrel (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*), among others. Precise identification will help gather information about sightings of seabirds and their interactions with fishing gear, as well as data on the ecology of albatrosses, petrels and other birds. Monitoring activities for new seabird records are also being carried out.

Lastly, MAATE's work on the use and management of biodiversity information must be publicised as it is part of the development and implementation of the Biodiversity Information System (*Sistema de Información de la Biodiversidad - SIB-EC*). This information system is a digital platform that sorts and organises the biodiversity information generated daily in Ecuador. The platform contains several information modules, among which the "Action Plans Module" is of particular note. The platform can be used to record, manage and monitor the development of the activities included in the action plans for the conservation of endangered species, such as PACAP.



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## Key Achievements:

# France



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 28 June 2005  
(through Instrument of approval)

France has the only Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis* population, located on Amsterdam Island, in the southern Indian Ocean. Although increasing, it remains at very low levels with just over a hundred breeding pairs.

Threats identified in the past remain present. The implementation of the first National Plan of Action (2011-2015) made it possible to improve knowledge about this species but also to initiate concrete measures for its conservation, mainly related to the impact of pathogens and fisheries. A second National Plan of Action (2018-2027) coordinates measures to stabilise population growth by maintaining high reproductive success (acting on pathogenic threats and introduced predators) and high survival of immatures or adults (limiting the impact of fisheries). However, it is essential to maintain ongoing efforts while initiating new actions quickly.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

Located between 500 and 600 m above sea level, the *Diomedea amsterdamensis* nesting zone is a vast peatlands plateau. The historical distribution of the species is unknown. Only the presence of subfossil bones suggests that it was wider than the current distribution. Since annual population monitoring began in 1983, the range of nests has increased steadily, progressing southward. The habitat characteristics underpinning the location of new nests are not yet identified.

In 2023-2025, it is planned to map the natural habitats on Amsterdam Island. All data will be analysed to characterise nesting habitats and to model and evaluate the theoretical capacity of Amsterdam Island.

## Research & Monitoring

The National Plan of Action (2018-2027) lays out many actions. Research programmes are implemented to improve knowledge and contribute to the conservation of the species. Follow-up is provided annually during the Steering Committee. An annual review is prepared.

## Species Conservation

### Population

The species was on the verge of extinction in the 1980s. Since then, the number of breeding pairs has increased to 63 pairs that laid eggs in 2022. Every year since 1984, all fledglings are individually marked (metal band and alphanumeric coloured band) by the IPEV-109 project. The annual control of banded breeding adults allows an extensive demographic monitoring of the population.

In 2022, demographic parameters were estimated by the CEBC-CNRS (Centre for Biological Studies of Chizé - National Scientific Research Centre):

- The population growth rate is estimated at +5.08% each year.
- Despite some low figures in the 1990s, reproductive success (the probability of an egg becoming a fledgling chick) has remained stable over the past 20 years with a 63.4% success average.
- The annual survival rate varies little over time and is the highest of all albatross species combined, with calculated survival probabilities of:
  - 92% in juveniles (1-2 years);
  - 98% in immatures (3-7 years);
  - 97% in adults (>7 years).

Overall, these parameters indicate the good demographic health of the population and correspond to the objectives set in the second National Plan of Action (2018-2027).

### Diet

Dietary remains containing squid are found in the pellets of individual albatrosses. However, knowledge regarding the main prey groups (cephalopods, fish, others) and prey species exploited, and therefore the trophic level of the species within the marine ecosystem, is still lacking. The most direct and quick method to determine their diet would be by analysing the regurgitate of a dozen chicks.

Delord et al. (2022) reports consumption of fishing discards by *Diomedea amsterdamensis*.



## Management of Human Activities

### Pathogens:

Avian cholera causes large epizootics on Amsterdam Island, within colonies of Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri* and Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi*. The responsible bacterium, *Pasteurella multocida*, was found in Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis* chicks (Jaeger et al. 2018). CEFE-CNRS and the CEVA BIOVAC laboratory have developed an autologous vaccine against this bacterium as well as a serological test, to assess whether it would be possible to protect albatross chicks through maternal vaccination and maternal antibody transfer. This vaccine has been tested on Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri* chicks and adults since 2013. Initial results show a positive effect, but the interference of rats (by predation on chicks in particular) prevents any definitive conclusion about the effectiveness of vaccination on the survival rate of chicks. Testing will continue following the eradication of introduced predators, planned for 2024 as part of the RECI project, Restoration of Indian Ocean Island Ecosystems (2019-2025).

### Fisheries:

There is a strong overlap between albatross feeding areas and fishing areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surrounding Amsterdam Island, but especially in international waters (pelagic tuna longline fisheries - IOTC, CCSBT -, and to a lesser extent demersal fisheries in the SIOFA area).

At national level, 100% of authorised vessels have a fishing effort observer on board. No incidental catch of *Diomedea amsterdamensis* has yet been observed.

Despite the low rate of attraction of *Diomedea amsterdamensis* albatrosses to fishing vessels as suggested by tracking data, a recent study by Delord et al. (2022) clearly shows that some individuals interact directly with vessels in the coastal waters around Amsterdam and Saint Paul islands. Fisheries observers aboard the *Austral* in the St. Paul and Amsterdam EEZ reported 16 sightings involving 15 different individuals over the 2018-2021 period. All individuals observed were immature (2-11 years of age), except one 15-year-old adult. Observations indicate direct interactions with the vessel, including consumption of discards.

### Alien species:

To date, no direct impact of introduced mammals (mouse, rat, cat) on *Diomedea amsterdamensis* has been recorded. However, the brown rat may be a reservoir and vector of *Pasteurella multocida* (bacteria responsible for avian cholera). The RECI project (2019-2025) plans for the eradication of brown rats, domestic mice and feral cats on Amsterdam Island in 2024.

### Contaminants:

To gain scientific knowledge about the exposure of the *Diomedea amsterdamensis* species to contaminants, research on toxic pollutants was initiated in 2022. Results are expected in 2025.



## Education and Public Awareness

The French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF) coordinate the following actions:

- Training the TAAF staff travelling to the Amsterdam district prior to departure so that they are able to communicate about the NPOA to base staff and tourists
- Presentation on board the *Marion Dufresne*
- Various publications on the TAAF website and social networks as well as in mainstream magazines (*Espaces Naturels* and *Oiseau Magazine*).

In 2018, photographs of *Diomedea amsterdamensis* by Isabelle Jouvie, from the Institut Paul-Émile Victor, were selected for the Academy of Sciences' annual exhibition in San Francisco.



## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

At national level, effective bycatch mitigation measures (e.g. night setting, bird scaring lines, line weighting) are in place on all authorised vessels. Their application is ensured by the presence of a fisheries controller on board 100% of vessels in the Crozet and Kerguelen EEZs. In addition, in order to improve waste management, decree No. 2006-1211 regulates the management of organic waste and fish waste. A TAAF order specifies that this waste must, if possible, be crushed, then discharged when the vessel is under way in such a way that it sinks rapidly, at depths greater than 500 metres. *L'Austral* has been equipped with a waste mill since 2020 and no longer discharges fish remains from small auxiliary boats.



## Future Opportunities & Challenges

The protection of albatrosses and petrels has been strengthened by the various measures set out in the reserve decree. A further extension of the TAAF natural reserve took place in 2022, thus making it possible to cover all the maritime areas of the Crozet and Kerguelen archipelagos as well as the islands of Saint Paul and Amsterdam administered by the French Southern and Antarctic Territories. At 1.6 million km<sup>2</sup>, the French Southern Territories National Nature Reserve becomes the largest French marine protected area and the second largest marine protected area in the world. This extension will allow for a better protection of the *Diomedea amsterdamensis* species.

It should also be noted that since 2021 and until 2025 (possibly renewable), France is implementing a National Plan of Action for the Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* species. *Puffinus mauretanicus* is considered to be the most endangered seabird in the Western Palearctic ecozone. The global population is small and declining rapidly. Its conservation status has been considered "critically endangered" in Europe since 2004. The species is protected at national, community and international levels.





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## Key Achievements:

# New Zealand



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 1 November 2001

**New Zealand has 11 ACAP species of albatrosses and five species of petrels, including ten endemic species, more endemic species than any other ACAP Party. This reflects the numerous offshore islands (providing suitable breeding sites) and the extensive feeding grounds around New Zealand and across the vast South Pacific and Southern Oceans.**

In New Zealand seabirds are considered to be 'taonga' – cultural treasures, to Māori, and they form a vital part of ocean biodiversity. As such, New Zealand has undertaken a range of important actions to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels. Notable are pioneering efforts to eradicate rats, mice, rabbits and feral stock (sheep, cattle and goats) from offshore islands – developing novel methods and expertise that have greatly benefitted other countries – as well as development of many novel seabird bycatch mitigation measures. Its ACAP-listed breeding populations forage widely, including east to South America and beyond to the southwest Atlantic, making bycatch mitigation in high seas fishing fleets especially important for these populations. Recent satellite tracking studies show that some of New Zealand's most threatened species such as the Antipodean Albatross spend most of their time foraging in high seas areas, where they significantly overlap with pelagic longline fisheries.

## Species Conservation

- New Zealand's activities relating to improving the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels have encompassed legislation, policy, research, and threat management.
- New Zealand worked with Australia and Chile to list the ACAP-listed and globally Endangered Antipodean Albatross on Appendix 1 of the Convention on Migratory Species and developed a concerted action plan for the species which addresses the threats to the ACAP recognised Priority Population of this species.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

- Improved the habitat quality for ACAP-listed species through the eradication of introduced pests and implementation of new biosecurity measures for breeding islands, most recently the eradication of mice from Antipodes Island, undertaken in 2016 and confirmed in 2018.
- Created marine reserves that exclude fishing, around the key breeding sites at the Antipodes, Auckland, Bounty and Campbell Island groups.

## Management of Human Activities

- Revised the National Plan of Action-Seabirds in 2020, which sets the vision that New Zealanders work towards zero fishing-related seabird mortalities, through actions such as ensuring all New Zealand commercial fishers are using practices that best avoid the risk of seabird bycatch.
- Introduced mandatory seabird bycatch mitigation measures for pelagic and demersal longline and trawl (>28m vessels) fisheries.
- Developed seabird bycatch Mitigation Standards that document best practice mitigation methods for reducing the risk of seabird captures in New Zealand commercial fisheries.
- Supporting fishers to develop and implement vessel-specific plans for best practice mitigation options tailored to their operational needs.

## Research & Monitoring

- The development of a domestic seabird risk assessment to identify species most at risk from commercial fishing. Outputs from this process being used to prioritise research and management priorities within New Zealand.
- Researched seabird bycatch mitigation measures, including methods to reduce seabird captures in trawl nets, testing line-weighting strategies in pelagic and demersal longline fisheries, and improving the construction standards for tori lines in trawl fisheries.
- Established best practice approaches for managing the discharge of trawl processing waste to minimise seabird bycatch.
- Monitored interactions between ACAP-listed species and commercial fisheries through government observers and the development of a national Digital Monitoring programme.
- The development and publication of seabird bycatch estimates from domestic commercial fishing using data from both government observers and Digital Monitoring.
- Developed and expanded a range of ACAP-recognised priority population and demographic programmes for species including Buller's Albatross, Antipodean Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, and Black Petrel.
- The development of a comprehensive seabird tracking programme across all New Zealand ACAP-listed species to better understand their at-sea threats. Including making tracking data available through Creative Commons licensing.
- The development of the integrated population modelling tool and multi-threat risk assessment to facilitate the prioritisation of management strategies around population threats for Antipodean Albatross.

## Education and Public Awareness

- Published online information on incidental bycatch of ACAP-listed species in New Zealand commercial fisheries.
- Produced and disseminated a variety of resources aimed at increasing awareness of seabird conservation, including newsletters, identification guides and DVDs.
- Engagement with the recreational fishing sector to highlight the issue of seabird bycatch.
- Established the Protected Species Liaison Programme which provides information, advice and support to coastal and inshore commercial fishing fleets across New Zealand.
- Development of Seabird Smart workshops to build fishers' awareness and interest in seabirds and the risks that fishing poses for these species, as well as reinforcing the government mitigation regulations and other additional measures that fishers can take to avoid capturing seabirds.

## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

- The New Zealand National Plan of Action for Seabirds sets out 'Mitigation Standards' which are expected to be implemented by New Zealand commercial fisheries. The Mitigation Standards describe the best practice mitigation options for each fishery and are largely aligned with ACAP advice.
- New Zealand engages internationally on seabird bycatch issues through a range of channels. New Zealand actively participates at relevant regional fisheries management organisations to promote adoption of appropriate seabird bycatch mitigation measures; cooperates bilaterally with key flag and coastal states; and works within multilateral organisations and forums such as ACAP and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC).
- The Southern Seabird Trust is a charitable trust that works both domestically and internationally with commercial and recreational fishers, associated agencies and industry to reduce harm to New Zealand seabirds from fishing. The trust fosters international cooperation on seabird conservation and is developing a Seabird Safe Longline Fishing Toolkit designed to help the global tuna industry meet their sustainability objectives by providing them with robust information on measures to mitigate the incidental captures of ACAP-listed species.

## Future Opportunities & Challenges

- Continuing to prioritise and implement research to maintain and expand the substantial knowledge base needed to manage 16 of the 31 ACAP-listed species.
- Undertaking research to improve knowledge of the nature and extent of seabird bycatch in inshore commercial and recreational fisheries and the mitigation strategies needed to minimise bycatch in these fisheries.
- Continue to progressively improve current bycatch reduction measures across all New Zealand fisheries to achieve a long-term vision of zero bycatch.
- The ongoing development of a Southern Hemisphere seabird risk assessment in partnership with other nations that have commercial fishing interests in the region.
- Improve international cooperation in addressing the significant fisheries bycatch risks to ACAP-species in the High Seas.
- Ensure that pressures on the marine environment do not degrade the quality of ACAP-listed species' habitats.
- Further improve the management of the terrestrial habitats used by ACAP-listed species through additional eradications of introduced predators from seabirds' breeding islands, such as eradicating feral pigs, cats and potentially mice from the main Auckland Island.



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## Key Achievements:

# Norway



Acceded 5 March 2007

Norway was an early supporter of ACAP and other international treaties to further the global conservation of albatross and petrel species. The Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) is the only ACAP-listed species found breeding in Norway's area of interest. Sporadic breeding of this species has been documented at Bouvetøya (Bouvet Island), although current status is unknown.

The adjacent waters represent rich feeding grounds (habitats) for several of the listed species. Norway has also had a prolonged and focused effort to understand the population trajectory of the world's largest colony of the Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*, in Svarthamaren, Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica, currently not listed on Annex 1 of ACAP. Norway has actively supported the development and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

In Antarctic waters, Norway participates extensively in an internationally managed trawl fishery, as well as operating tourist cruise vessels. Such activities have the potential to affect albatrosses and petrels adversely and are therefore conducted and managed according to guidance and regulations under the Antarctic Treaty system, which is based on ACAP's best practice advice. Norway has been involved in the development within ACAP of conservation advice, including seabird bycatch measures. In the Northeast Atlantic, Norway is similarly collaborating within OSPAR to minimize seabird bycatch as part of a new and comprehensive action plan for marine bird conservation, that may have synergies with seabird conservation in the Antarctic.



## Species Conservation

- Support actions and initiatives in ACAP and other international instruments to conserve albatrosses and petrels, as well as Antarctic seabirds in general.



## Management of Human Activities

- Ensuring that all activities authorized under Norwegian legislation, including tourism activities, adhere to relevant regulations and guidance aiming to limit negative impacts on Antarctic seabirds.
- Active within the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), of which it is a Contracting Party, to promote ecosystem-based management of living resource extraction in the Southern Ocean.



## Research & Monitoring

- Research and monitoring in the Antarctic and Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea* colonies in Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 142 - Svarthamaren - in Dronning Maud Land continue on an annual basis, supporting the knowledge development relating to the Antarctic marine ecosystems and albatross/petrel habitats. Monitoring activities of Antarctic and Snow Petrels have also been initiated in additional colonies in the Jutulsessen-area, Dronning Maud Land.
- Since the 2019/20 fishing season, Norway has been conducting trials of mitigation measures on board its continuous trawl vessels using net monitoring cables (NMC) in CCAMLR waters. Using a protocol agreed by

CCAMLR Members and with input from ACAP, Norway has been developing mitigation measures to prevent seabird mortality in continuous trawl fisheries using net monitoring cables.

- National research and documentation of seabird bycatch and other effective seabird conservation measures in national/northern waters.



## Education and Public Awareness

- Developed guidance material to raise awareness and limit risks related to the potential introduction and spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the petrel colonies in areas of Norwegian activity.



## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

- Norway has been an active supporter of ACAP as well as other relevant international instruments for knowledge development and implementation of conservation measures.



## Future Opportunities & Challenges

- Ensure proper management (including spatial protection) of marine habitats that are key (feeding) areas for ACAP-listed species.
- Ensure that effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures continue to be developed and implemented in Antarctic fisheries.



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## Key Achievements:

# Peru



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 17 May 2005

In 2005, Peru ratified its commitment to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), and since then, has been working in collaboration with the other Parties to help conserve the albatross and petrel species that reach its waters on their migratory routes.

During the first decade of the Agreement, thanks to the drive and support provided by ACAP, Ecuador and Peru adopted the Waved Albatross Action Plan. Currently, both countries are working to update this document. A National Working Group, made up of different government agencies, was formed to follow up on national efforts to conserve albatrosses and petrels. Furthermore, thanks to the support of ACAP, research is being carried out jointly with other Parties into the implementation of different seabird bycatch mitigation practices, mainly in the artisanal fishery that takes place in Peru. In addition, special training programmes are being held to train people about how to identify, release and handle seabirds and other species that interact with industrial fisheries. Finally, Peru has published research on the distribution of some species of albatrosses and petrels that reach its waters. This information helps to expand the knowledge base of these species and serves as a tool in the development of management and conservation plans.

## Species Conservation

- Within the framework of the Agreement, Ecuador and Peru adopted the Waved Albatross Action Plan. Workshops were held to further the implementation and progress of the Plan. Currently, both countries are working to update this document.
- Establishment of the National Working Group in charge of following up on the work carried out by ACAP.

## Education and Public Awareness

- Training programmes were held for the crews of the industrial anchovy (*Engraulis ringens*) fishery and the artisanal mahi-mahi fishery to train them in seabird identification and raise awareness. The courses also sought to provide training in good handling practices for the release of marine fauna during fishing activities (bycatch).
- Visual materials were developed and shared on social networks to raise awareness about the conservation of ACAP species.
- Agreements were signed between government institutions and NGOs to develop training materials and a guide on "Protocol for the release of sea turtles, albatrosses and elephant seals in artisanal fisheries", which is currently under review.

## Research & Monitoring

- Bird sighting data collected by observers during scientific research expeditions were used to understand inter-annual variations in the distribution of ACAP species.
- Implementation of fishing logs for resources such as mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*), bonito (*Sarda chilensis*) and billfish (marlins and swordfish). New sections are being added so that information on the bycatch of ACAP species can be entered.
- Elaboration of scientific publications on the distribution of certain species of albatrosses and petrels of the ACAP that reach Peruvian waters.
- Exchange of information and experiences to develop initiatives for projects and activities to protect albatrosses and petrels.
- Participation in scientific expeditions held during the Southern hemisphere summer in Antarctic waters which involve sighting seabirds on board scientific vessels.

## Management of Human Activities

- Inclusion of ACAP species categorised as protected species by the country's legislation, which prohibits their capture or hunting.
- Creation of marine protected areas, such as the Dorsal de Nasca National Reserve, which aims to conserve a representative sample of the marine ecosystem commonly used by seabirds as a transit zone on their migratory routes.
- Process to categorise threatened species, including the evaluation of seabird species such as albatrosses and petrels reaching the Peruvian coast which are covered by the country's legislation.
- State entities worked in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to assist stranded specimens. On one occasion, a specimen of Waved Albatross was rehabilitated, banded and finally released at sea.

## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

- Peru, together with New Zealand, has recently developed a project to mitigate the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in the artisanal longline fishery targeting sharks, thus adapting traditional mitigation methods to the real-life situation in Peru, which should contribute to the conservation of these endangered species.

## Future Opportunities & Challenges

### Opportunities

- Creation of more natural protected areas, including conservation zones for marine ecosystems and the species that use these areas as feeding and transit zones. The idea is to create opportunities to improve the management and development of human activities in the area, thus reducing bycatch and protecting these species.
- Development of research projects and capacity-building for researchers involved in the conservation of these species, to increase the store of knowledge about the distribution patterns of albatrosses and petrels in Peruvian waters, as well as the biology of these species, and the development and implementation of best practices to mitigate bycatch. The funding support provided by the Agreement is essential to achieving this.
- Availability of material produced in the framework of the Agreement, to develop best practices for bycatch mitigation.
- Permanent advice and support provided by the Agreement for the effective implementation of different projects, as is the case with the Conservation Plans.

### Challenges

- Increase in efforts at national level to achieve adequate environmental governance through institutional and regulatory strengthening.
- Development of an Action Plan for the conservation of seabirds, as well as its due implementation, including a monitoring programme and progress assessment report.
- Strengthening of multi-sectoral coordination regarding the recognition of the problems related to conserving these species, prioritising the measures aimed at resolving these problems.
- Establishment of a National Onboard Observer Programme so that reliable data can be obtained about the magnitude and nature of seabird bycatch in different fisheries.
- Continuation of work to mitigate seabird bycatch in artisanal fisheries, despite the challenges presented, which have to do with the large number of existing vessels and the high mobility of the fleets.
- Addressing the presence of pathogens that can affect ACAP species due to their propagation speed, as is the case with H5N1, or avian flu.
- Strengthening of research programmes in the short, medium and long term, with the objective of improving knowledge about albatrosses and petrels.
- Expansion of knowledge about the degree of overlap existing between fisheries and albatrosses and petrels; and work to characterise the magnitude of the potential impact of fisheries.
- Strengthening of adequate and effective coordination on seabird conservation between the different levels of government - local, regional and central - and other interested parties.
- Work towards the achievement of genuine environmental awareness of the need to conserve seabird populations, particularly among fishing communities and the fishing sector as a whole.

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- <sup>4</sup> Moreno, C., & Quinones, J. (2022). Albatross and petrel interactions with an artisanal squid fishery in southern Peru during El Niño, 2015-2017. *Marine Ornithology*, 50, 49-56. [http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/50\\_1/50\\_1\\_49-56.pdf](http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/50_1/50_1_49-56.pdf)
- <sup>5</sup> Quinones, J., Romero, C., Mangel, J. C., Alfaro-Shigueto, J., Moreno, C., & Zavalaga, C. (2022). At-sea surveys reveal new insights of fine-scale distribution and foraging behaviour of Chatham albatrosses (*Thalassarche eremita*) in central southern Peru. *Notornis*, 69, 72-78. <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Javier-Quinones/publication/359798105-At-sea-surveys-reveal-new-insights-of-fine-scale-distribution-and-foraging-behaviour-of-Chatham-albatrosses-Thalassarche-eremita-in-central-southern-Peru/links/6495b758de7ed28ba4d74a/At-sea-surveys-reveal-new-insights-of-fine-scale-distribution-and-foraging-behaviour-of-Chatham-albatrosses-Thalassarche-eremita-in-central-southern-Peru.pdf>
- <sup>6</sup> Quiñones, J., Alegre, A., Romero, C., Manrique, M., & Vásquez, L. (2021). Fine-Scale Distribution, Abundance, and Foraging Behavior of Salvin's, Buller's, and Chatham Albatrosses in the Northern Humboldt Upwelling System. *Pacific Science*, 75(1), 85-105. <https://bioone.org/journals/pacific-science/volume-75/issue-1/75.1.4/Fine-Scale-Distribution-Abundance-and-Foraging-Behavior-of-Salvins-Bullers-10.2984/75.1.4.short>
- <sup>7</sup> Quiñones, J., Manrique, M., & Arata, J. (2021). Occurrence of Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*) in southern Peru provides clues on their northern limit. *Ornithology Research*, 29(1), 50-55. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43388-021-00043-4>
- <sup>8</sup> Quinones, J., Romero, C., & Zavalaga, C. (2021). Vessel survey observations confirm wintering dispersion of northern giant-petrel (*Macronectes halli*) juveniles in southern-central Peru; what is their origin. *Notornis*, 68, 76-85. <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Javier-Quinones/publication/350328459-Vessel-survey-observations-confirm-wintering-dispersion-of-northern-giant-petrel-Macronectes-halli-juveniles-in-southern-central-Peru-what-is-their-origin/links/64a2c7eab9ed6874a5f40ee8/Vessel-survey-observations-confirm-wintering-dispersion-of-northern-giant-petrel-Macronectes-halli-juveniles-in-southern-central-Peru-what-is-their-origin.pdf>
- <sup>9</sup> Quinones, J., Calderon, J., Mayaute, L. U. I. S., & Bell, E. (2020). Black petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) congregations at sea off Peru during the Austral summer. *Notornis*, 67, 573-576. <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Elizabeth-Bell-5/publication/348675902-Black-petrel-Procellaria-parkinsoni-congregations-at-sea-off-Peru-during-the-Austral-summer/links/600a51c392851c13fe2a9ac2/Black-petrel-Procellaria-parkinsoni-congregations-at-sea-off-Peru-during-the-Austral-summer.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Outreach material: Prepared by SERFOR and ProDelphinus:

**ALBATROS DE GALÁPAGOS**  
(*phoebastria irrorata*)

Se reproducen en Isla Española (Galápagos) e Isla de la Plata en Ecuador y visitan las costas del Perú para alimentarse.

Esta especie está declarada como "Amenazada" \* debido a:

- Cambio climático.
- Enredos en aparejos de pesca.
- Especies invasoras en sus zonas de anidamiento.

\*D.S. 004-2014-MINAGRI

SERFOR Siempre con el pueblo



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## Key Achievements:

# South Africa



Signed ACAP 6 November 2003  
Ratified 6 November 2003

South Africa is located at the foot of Africa and at the junction of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The highly productive, cool Benguela upwelling ecosystem lies along its west coast, whereas the warm Agulhas Current flows along the edge of the Agulhas Plateau off its southeast coast.

These waters provide extensive feeding opportunities for, and are regularly visited by, large numbers of seabirds, including many albatrosses and petrels. Additionally, about 2.5 million pairs of 30 species of seabirds breed at South Africa's sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands (PEIs; Marion Island and Prince Edward Island) in the southwest Indian Ocean. These include five species of albatrosses (Wandering, Sooty, Light-mantled, Indian Yellow-nosed, Grey-headed) and four species of petrel (Southern Giant, Northern Giant, White-chinned, Grey) that are listed under the Albatross and Petrel Agreement. The wide-ranging nature of both the albatrosses and petrels and the at-sea threats they face necessitate international collaboration to conserve them. At the commencement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century several albatross and petrel species were of global conservation concern. These factors led South Africa to ratify ACAP in 2003.

## Species Conservation

At the Prince Edward Islands (PEIs), Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses breed only on Prince Edward Island (44 km<sup>2</sup>), which is also home to occupied nests of the other four albatross species and of both giant petrels. These all nest above ground, facilitating counting. Uninhabited Prince Edward Island is visited infrequently, to preserve its pristine nature and minimise threats to its fauna and flora. Therefore,

counts of numbers of the five albatrosses and two giant petrels breeding there are irregular although counts of Wandering Albatrosses have been made from aerial surveys. Two species of albatross have also been recorded at the small Prince Edward Island, the White-capped incubating eggs and Black-browed Albatrosses incubating eggs have been spotted loafing among Indian and Grey-headed Albatrosses and a chick has been hatched on Marion Island.

White-chinned and Grey Petrels nest in burrows, making population surveys more difficult. However, estimates have been made of their abundance at both islands. Information has been obtained on demographic parameters (survival, age at breeding, breeding success) of the albatrosses and petrels on the PEIs, or assumed from studies conducted elsewhere. This has enabled South Africa to apply IUCN criteria to assess the regional conservation status of its populations of albatrosses and petrels breeding at the PEIs. It has also enabled South Africa to contribute information towards global assessments of the conservation status of these species.

In 2015, at a regional level, Sooty, Indian Yellow-nosed and Grey-headed albatrosses were adjudged as Endangered, Wandering Albatross as Vulnerable and Light-mantled Albatross as Near Threatened (NT). The four petrels were all considered to be NT. In 2023, the regional assessments were being updated.

In 2009, the PEIs supported 44% of all Wandering Albatrosses, 10% of Grey-headed Albatrosses, 21% of Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses and approximately 10% of Sooty and 2% of Light-mantled Albatrosses.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

In 2007, the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve and surrounding waters extending out to 500 m were declared a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance (No. 1688). In 2013, a Marine Protected Area of 180,000 km<sup>2</sup> was declared around the PEIs. In 2014, a new management plan for the PEIs was adopted.

An alien plant programme is working to eradicate five species with as-yet limited distributions on Marion Island with the aim of conserving natural habitats for, among other species, ACAP-listed Grey and White-chinned Petrels.

A decade-long "Country Clean-up Campaign" removed tonnes of rubble, litter and remnants of dismantled structures from Marion Island, *inter alia* reducing the risks of entanglement with wildlife, including with ACAP-listed species. In 2023, progress was made in removing material used to construct the old, unoccupied base from Marion Island.

In 2020, the South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) formalised a partnership with BirdLife South Africa to undertake collaboratively a mouse eradication operation, the Mouse-Free Marion (MFM) Project. The primary objective of this project is to restore Marion Island and enhance the conservation status of its seabird populations. The MFM Project is currently (2023) in the planning and preparatory phase.

## Management of Human Activities

Access to the PEIs is regulated under the Prince Edward Islands Management Plan (PEIMP) and in terms of its status as South Africa's only Special Nature reserve, which, *inter alia*, does not allow for tourism. The islands are zoned to preclude or reduce human impacts in sensitive areas, including those used by albatrosses and petrels for breeding. Strict protocols are in force to avoid introductions of alien plants, animals and diseases to the islands.

In 2008, South Africa adopted a National Plan of Action (NPOA) for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries. The bycatch of albatrosses and petrels in South Africa's fisheries has been assessed. A notable achievement was the adoption of mitigation measures (deployment of twin bird-scaring lines) in the domestic demersal trawl fishery, which has led to a 90% reduction in albatross and petrel mortality. Both the NPOA and the PEIMP are under review in an effort to strengthen compliance and enforcement.

## Research & Monitoring

In addition to the estimation of population sizes and demographic parameters of albatrosses and petrels mentioned above, papers have been published on trends in the five albatross species and the two giant petrel species that breed at the PEIs and on numbers of White-chinned Petrels breeding on both islands.

Papers have also been published on the at-sea distribution of all five albatross species and Northern Giant and White-chinned Petrels breeding at the PEIs. These papers have been useful in highlighting areas used by these species and where there is potential overlap with distributions and threats, such as from incidental mortality in fisheries operations. They also provide information useful for marine spatial planning.

Aspects of the breeding and foraging of Grey and White-chinned Petrels at Marion Island have been studied using nest cams and tracking devices.

At-sea research testing of mitigation measures to reduce seabird mortality in both longline and trawl fisheries has been undertaken, with the results published. The research has assessed and strengthened the implementation of bycatch mitigation measures onboard of fisheries vessels, with permit conditions being enforced by DFFE fisheries branch.

The impact of House Mice on seabirds at Marion Island has been studied and a proposal for their eradication from the island was developed over the past several years as a partnership (known as the Mouse-Free Marion Project) between DFFE and BirdLife South Africa, and was endorsed by ACAP's Advisory Committee in 2023. Implementation of the project will be expensive and funds to execute it are currently being raised.

## Education and Public Awareness

A book reviewing research and conservation activities at the PEIs was published in 2007. An illustrated "coffee-table" book on the PEIs was published in 2010 to highlight to the general public the importance of the islands. A conservation handbook for the PEIs was published in 2011 to inform and educate island visitors. A number of websites and Facebook Pages covering aspects of the South African National Antarctic Programme regularly report on research and conservation activities at the PEIs, including on ACAP-listed seabirds. Articles and newsletters were published during World Albatross Day raising awareness.

BirdLife South Africa through its Albatross Task Force has undertaken extensive work to inform fishers of the need and how to mitigate bycatch mortality in fisheries operating around southern Africa.

## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

South Africa conducts an ongoing research programme at its PEIs with aims *inter alia* to conserve biodiversity at those islands. It provides information to ACAP and other treaties (including RFMOs) to which it is a Party to facilitate achieving the objectives of those treaties, including conserving biodiversity. With regard to albatrosses and petrels that migrate into waters under its jurisdiction, or where its fisheries operate, South Africa has conducted assessments on fisheries bycatch and the effectiveness of various bycatch mitigation methods. A notable achievement was the adoption of deployments of twin bird-scaring lines in the domestic demersal trawl fishery, leading to a 90% reduction in albatross and petrel mortality. Its researchers have also provided insights into the mortality of albatrosses on Marion Island caused by mice.

## Future Opportunities & Challenges

Future challenges include reducing bycatch of seabirds by fisheries of other states and on the high seas that pose major threats to albatrosses and petrels breeding in or visiting South Africa; expanding the presently limited observer coverage on some of South Africa's fishing fleets; eradicating mice from Marion Island; preventing outbreaks of avian diseases amongst seabirds at the PEIs; undertaking difficult research, including improving estimates of the population of Grey Petrels at the PEIs and measuring demographic parameters for Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross at Prince Edward Island; collating information from all fisheries inflicting mortality on albatrosses and petrels into population viability models so as to understand priority conservation interventions; improving biosecurity in the supply chain to Marion Island, including aboard ship; and increasing the presently limited funding for research.



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## Key Achievements:

# Spain



Signed ACAP 30 April 2002  
Ratified 12 August 2003

Spain has been a Party to ACAP since 2003. The ratification of the agreement by a fishing nation such as Spain was an international milestone and an expression of its commitment to the development of responsible fishing practices that respect marine biodiversity. Only one of the species included in the Annex to the Agreement is to be found in Spanish jurisdictional waters: the Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*). However, Spain's large offshore fishing fleet operates in a wide geographic area that overlaps with the distribution range of other species included in the Agreement.

## Species Conservation

The Balearic Shearwater is included in the Spanish Catalogue of Threatened Species in the "critically endangered" category. In 2005, the National Strategy for the conservation of the Balearic shearwater in Spain was approved. This strategy is currently under review and is expected to be approved in 2024. Similarly, the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands approved a recovery plan for this species in 2004, and work on a national recovery plan is underway.

Actions aimed at eradicating rodents and controlling carnivores introduced into the breeding colonies are also being developed with a view to eliminating the main land-based threats to the species.

In this context, as part of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project, a construction project has been drawn up to build an anti-predator barrier to protect the largest colony of the species, whose completion date is planned for 2024.

Several of these colonies are monitored on a regular basis.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

Since the entry into force of the Agreement, a number of areas of importance for the conservation of the Balearic Shearwater (AICA in Spanish) at sea have been identified. Twenty of these areas are of special relevance for the species in Spanish waters and have been subsequently designated as Special Protection Areas.

Likewise, within the framework of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project, work is being carried out to declare new areas that include habitats of value for the Balearic Shearwater, such as in the Strait of Gibraltar, or on the central Catalan coast, the latter due to the importance that the area has as a feeding ground for the species during its breeding season.

In addition, work is being carried out to prepare a series of management plans for the Natura 2000 Network areas where the species is present.



## Management of Human Activities

Spain runs Onboard Observation Programmes on fishing vessels, which gather information on seabird bycatch. The scientific objective of these programmes is to monitor the fisheries belonging to the Spanish fleet and obtain data and samples for scientific purposes.

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography manages the Onboard Observation Programme which collects data from most of the fisheries in the Spanish fleet (more detailed information on these sampling programs can be found at <https://www.ieo.es/en/pndb>). AZTI (a scientific and technological centre that develops projects related to the marine environment and food) manages the Onboard Observation Programme for the Basque fleet.

As part of this programme, and with respect to pelagic longline fishing, the Malaga Oceanographic Centre has been systematically collecting and analysing data on seabird bycatch in the western Mediterranean since 1997. Based on these results, new fishing management formulas have been proposed.

In addition, a series of mandatory measures aimed at preventing the bycatch of seabirds and sea turtles by pelagic longline fleets have been incorporated into national legislation.

Also, better quality information has been obtained on the occurrence of bycatch, especially in the context of bottom longline and longline gear in the Mediterranean, as well as on these interactions with respect to purse seine and nets, in collaboration with Portugal. The work carried out by SEO/BirdLife through its many projects with fishermen, involving the distribution of self-monitoring notebooks on fishing activities, has yielded important, albeit partial, information.

Likewise, there is a better understanding of the risk factors involved in bycatch, and several projects have contributed to improving the mitigation toolkit (setting time, type of bait to be used, use of weights, rapid setting system, etc.).

A workshop on Balearic Shearwater bycatch was held in 2020, to pull together the information available on Balearic Shearwater bycatch in fisheries operating in European waters. The objective was also to share experiences developed with the sector with a view to testing possible mitigation measures, identifying potential high-risk areas and knowledge gaps, and discussing next steps to address this problem. The workshop included attendance by experts from France and Portugal.

Finally, it should be noted that in 2022, the National Plan for the reduction of bycatch in fishing activities was approved jointly by the Ministries of Fisheries and of the Environment. The Plan establishes the guidelines for identifying the impacts of fishing on protected species, as well as the fleets and gear at risk.



## Research & Monitoring

Several colonies have been monitored continuously over recent years (e.g., Sa Conillera-Bosc, Malgrats, Mola de Maó).

Knowledge about the Balearic Shearwater has improved in areas such as its feeding ecology, spatial and temporal distribution patterns, population size, demography, etc.

As part of the LIFE IP INTEMARES project, several tagging campaigns have been carried out on Balearic Shearwater specimens to determine particular feeding areas during the breeding period, as well as to analyse their migration patterns once the breeding period is over.

The demographic situation of the Balearic Shearwater has also been updated, with demographic models provided for the populations of Mallorca (Genovart et al. 2016) and Ibiza (to be published, ACAP 2018 grant). Both studies reveal a serious decline in the species, linked to bycatch mortality.

Nesting boxes have also been placed to help with species monitoring, and a high percentage of these are occupied.



## Education and Public Awareness

Several educational materials about seabird bycatch as well as about the conservation of the Balearic shearwater have been produced.

Participatory workshops have also been held with the fishing sector in the framework of various projects, and SEO/BirdLife, in collaboration with the Blanes Centre for Advanced Studies (Centre d'Estudis Avancats de Blanes - CEAB-CSIC), has developed a mobile phone application called BYCATCH, which allows people to report the bycatch of certain vulnerable marine fauna (e.g., seabirds, cetaceans and other marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks and other fish of interest) that occur during fishing activities, whether professional or recreational.



## Implementation of the Agreement, including Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

Thanks to the implementation of the Agreement in Spain, several projects have been developed that have enabled, among other things, an improvement in the quality of knowledge about the species, and the promotion of measures to mitigate bycatch during fishing activities. A major effort has been made to raise awareness in the fishing sector, as well as in various public administrations and the general public.

Within the ACAP framework, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with New Zealand to carry out actions involving the exchange of experiences, onboard observations, good practices, etc., all aimed at reducing the effects of bycatch on fishing activities.



## Future Opportunities & Challenges

Implementation of the National Plan to reduce bycatch in fishing activities.

Approval and implementation of the recovery plan for the Balearic Shearwater, and of the Management Plans for the Special Protection Areas for Birds (ZEPAs) both on land and at sea, to contribute to the effective conservation of the species.

Construction of the first anti-predator barrier in Spain, to protect the main breeding colony of Balearic shearwaters.

Continuation of actions to control and eradicate rodents and other introduced predators in breeding colonies.

Adoption of measures to reduce the impact of emerging threats at sea, such as the development of floating offshore wind power generation facilities.

Collaboration and cooperation between Spain and its neighbours (Portugal, France, European Union) as well as with other Parties to the Agreement.



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## Key Achievements:

# United Kingdom



Signed ACAP 19 June 2001  
Ratified 2 April 2004

The United Kingdom's Overseas Territories in the south Atlantic Ocean host globally significant proportions of the breeding populations of 12 of the 31 listed ACAP species, including three endemic species (Tristan Albatross, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, Spectacled Petrel).

The rich waters surrounding these territories also make them extremely good foraging grounds, not only for those ACAP species that breed in the area, but also those that range from afar. These same waters also support substantial commercial fisheries, which inevitably leads to overlap and potential interactions between birds and fishing gear. The impacts of a warming climate, habitat change, emerging diseases, and in some places, introduced non-native mammals, place added pressures on these populations. As a founding member of ACAP, the UK has taken its responsibilities of improving the conservation status of its ACAP species seriously over the last 20-years. A pre-ACAP commitment to establishing and/or maintaining long-term research and monitoring programmes of Wandering, Grey-headed, Tristan, Atlantic Yellow-nosed and Black-browed albatrosses, and Northern and Southern giant petrels has resulted in some of the world's best and longest running datasets and scientific publication records on these species. This knowledge has proven invaluable for understanding their population processes, foraging ranges and ecology. The eradication of introduced mammals from a number of important breeding sites for ACAP-listed species, including the whole of South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>, has been a major success, and the UK remains committed to attempting further eradications at other key islands that it is responsible for. Contributions to the innovative development and mandatory use of effective seabird bycatch mitigation measures across fishing fleets operating in UK managed waters in the south Atlantic has resulted in near-zero seabird mortalities for many years. However, it is apparent that the mortality of ACAP-listed species in the waters of other states and on the high seas is the primary cause of the continued decline of many populations breeding on UK Overseas Territories. Reducing this bycatch in these fisheries remains a major challenge for the UK.

management, research, policy and legislation that ultimately aims to improve the conservation status of the species that breed or forage in each Territory.

- Major advances toward eradicating introduced mammals from ACAP breeding sites.
  - On South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>, reindeer and rodents (rats and mice) have been successfully eradicated, and the island was declared rodent free in May 2018.
  - In the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>, eradication campaigns have been ongoing since 2001. In that time, mice, rabbits, feral cats and foxes have been eradicated from five islands, and rats from 65 islands, which include some ACAP breeding sites. A feasibility study to eradicate multiple introduced mammals (feral cats, rats, mice, and rabbits) is currently being conducted for New Island, another important ACAP breeding site in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>.
  - Eradication of mice was attempted on Gough Island in 2021, but was not successful. Building on lessons learned, the feasibility of future eradication attempts is being investigated.

## Habitat Conservation & Restoration

- Twenty-two Important Bird Areas, including those meeting selection criteria by the presence of ACAP species (13 sites), designated in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup> by BirdLife International.
- Terrestrial (Falkland Islands [Islas Malvinas], South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands [Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur])<sup>1</sup> and marine protected or marine managed areas (British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands [Islas Malvinas]<sup>1</sup>, South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands [Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur]<sup>1</sup>, Tristan da Cunha) designated to protect habitats and biodiversity, including ACAP-listed species. Management plans for these areas updated or under development.
- Implemented strict biosecurity protocols for major breeding sites, including a rodent-detection dog programme for South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>.
- Visitor and research management protocols and codes implemented at most breeding sites.

## Species Conservation

- All ACAP species occurring in UK national and overseas waters are listed as protected species under national legislation and their deliberate or accidental take or killing is prohibited.
- Developed ACAP Implementation Plans for each of the relevant UK Overseas Territories. Plans include a prioritised programme of work, encompassing activities on threat

## Seabird Bycatch Mitigation

- Working closely with the fishing industry, undertaken research on the risks of fisheries operating in UK Overseas waters on ACAP species, as well as the effectiveness of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- Legislated for, enforced and monitored compliance with best practice bycatch mitigation measures in commercial fisheries. This has resulted in reducing seabird mortality to negligible levels in the trawl and demersal longline fisheries around the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup> and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur)<sup>1</sup>.
- Implemented successive Seabird National Plans of Action (longline and trawl) in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>.
- Promoted or supported ACAP recommendations on best practice mitigation measures to reduce seabird mortalities in fisheries at RFMOs to which the UK is a Party.

## Research & Monitoring

- Continued long-term monitoring of population trends and productivity of most breeding populations of ACAP-listed species on South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup>, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup>, Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, and Signy Island (British Antarctic Territory).
- Maintained annual monitoring of demography of Wandering, Grey-headed, Tristan, Atlantic Yellow-nosed and Black-browed Albatrosses, and Northern and Southern Giant Petrels.
- Gathered detailed data for most ACAP species on breeding biology, at-sea distribution and overlap with fisheries.
- Developed and tested seabird bycatch mitigation measures in longline and trawl fisheries.
- Implemented substantial fisheries and seabird observer programmes to monitor interactions of ACAP-listed species in commercial fisheries, and improve seabird bycatch mitigation measures.
- Published over 250 papers in international scientific journals since 2004; this research has revealed numerous insights into the biology and ecology of ACAP species, and the overlap and impact of fisheries.
- The results have highlighted population declines, assessed risk from fisheries, and have been used to advocate for improved conservation policies, including better bycatch assessment and mitigation, and the identification and protection of key marine areas.
- Continued to assess the risks to seabirds from ICCAT fisheries, which has led directly to improvements in bycatch mitigation.

## Future Opportunities & Challenges

### Challenges

- Making another attempt to eradicate house mice from Gough Island is the greatest immediate challenge facing the UK. Without eradication, the major seabird populations on the island will be lost and the Tristan Albatross would be at high risk of extinction.
- Maintaining the pest-free status of those islands which have had introduced mammal species successfully eradicated.
- Helping to implement or improve seabird bycatch mitigation measures in those fisheries, including high seas and those of other Parties/range states, that are known to overlap with the foraging ranges of UK ACAP-listed species.
- Increasing the level of observer coverage across all relevant UK fisheries.
- Ensuring sufficient resources are secured to enable continued research and monitoring of the 12 ACAP-listed species which breed in UK Overseas Territories.
- Censusing of those species which are particularly challenging to survey, and whose populations may be under threat – e.g. Grey Petrels on Tristan da Cunha/ Gough Island, Sooty Albatross on South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur)<sup>1</sup>, White-chinned Petrels on the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)<sup>1</sup> and South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (Islas Georgias del Sur e Islas Sandwich del Sur)<sup>1</sup>.
- Understanding and accounting for potential impacts of emerging threats on ACAP species – e.g. marine pollution/ plastics, disease, climate change.

### Opportunities

- The vast body of work conducted on the biology and ecology of ACAP-listed species over the last 20-years, and assessment of the potential overlap or risk from known threats to different populations places the UK in a strong position to prioritise those knowledge gaps which still need to be addressed – e.g. risk or threats to particular life-history stages and how these can be mitigated.
- Sharing knowledge and experience of eradication programmes, and establishment of ongoing biosecurity protocols.
- Establishing effective management plans for newly designated marine and coastal protected areas that include considerations for ACAP-listed species.
- Build upon the development of innovative tools and techniques that have been used in UK fisheries, such as electronic monitoring, to further enhance monitoring of seabird bycatch and assessment and implementation of seabird bycatch mitigation techniques in commercial fisheries.
- Providing greater input and sharing knowledge and expertise on seabird conservation with RFMOs to which the UK is a Party.



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## Key Achievements: Uruguay



Acceded 9 October 2008

The southwestern Atlantic Ocean is known as one of the key regions in terms of the wealth and abundance of *Procellariiformes* (albatrosses and petrels). Uruguayan waters are thus of great relevance for many of these species, which tend to congregate in large numbers around fishing activities.

The assembly of seabirds associated with longline and trawl fisheries active around Uruguay's continental shelf and slope is highly diverse. It includes species of albatrosses, petrels and other pelagic seabirds from various archipelagos and remote islands of the southern hemisphere. There are several ACAP-listed species; for instance, the Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*), the Yellow-nosed Albatross (*T. chlororhynchos*), the White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*), and the Spectacled Petrel (*P. conspicillata*). Some of the ACAP priority populations are found in Uruguayan waters, such as the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) of South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur)<sup>1</sup> and the Tristan Albatross (*D. dabbenena*), which is endemic to Gough Island. Several species that come from New Zealand are also distributed in these waters, such as the Southern Royal Albatross (*D. epomohora*) and the Northern Royal Albatross (*D. sanfordi*), among others. All of these species interact with fisheries operating on the Uruguayan continental shelf, slope and deep waters. Bycatch has been detected in Uruguayan fisheries which use pelagic longline, demersal longline and bottom trawl. Uruguay has thus carried out several actions to define the problem, develop effective mitigation measures and ensure these are correctly applied in its industrial fishery operations.



### Species Conservation

In response to the need to reduce seabird mortality, and also due to existing problems in some of its fisheries, in 2007 Uruguay launched its National Plan of Action to Reduce the Bycatch of Seabirds in Uruguayan Fisheries (known as NPOA-Seabirds of Uruguay), through the National Directorate of Aquatic Resources (*Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos* - DINARA) of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (*Ministerio de Ganadería Agricultura y Pesca* - MGAP) within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. The objective of this plan was to design a general framework which would enable Uruguay to implement measures to reduce the bycatch of seabirds in all the fishery operations undertaken by Uruguayan flag vessels in both its national maritime territory and international waters. In 2015, Uruguay completed the process to review the progress made with the proposals of the NPOA-Seabirds of Uruguay, and analyse new information about the conservation status of seabird species, as well as about the impact of different fisheries and the use of mitigation measures. This process led to the creation of the NPOA-Seabirds of Uruguay 2015, which includes a series of measures and proposals that are mostly adjusted to meet current needs. The NPOA-Seabirds of Uruguay 2015 was developed at a time when the impact of deep-sea trawling for Argentine Hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) on seabirds was under investigation. However, because the problem had already been reported, the use of the mitigation measures proposed by ACAP was recommended as a precaution. After several years of investigation, the National Directorate of Aquatic Resources issued a resolution at the

beginning of 2020 requiring all deep-sea trawlers involved in Argentine Hake fishing to implement mitigation measures. In addition to the use of bird scaring lines, these regulations prohibited the use of net-sonde cables as these expose seabirds to a high risk of bycatch mortality. Uruguay is the first country in South America to have adopted a measure of this type.

The Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front (*Comisión Técnica Mixta del Frente Marítimo* - CTMFM), formed between Uruguay and Argentina, approved the Regional Plan of Action to reduce the interaction of seabirds with fisheries taking place in the area covered by the Río de la Plata Treaty and its Maritime Front. This plan, known as the Regional Plan of Action-Seabirds, was approved in 2022 and pursues the general objective of providing a formal, conceptual and operational framework that contributes to improving the conservation status of seabirds found in the Common Argentine-Uruguayan Fishing Area. The aim is to mitigate the different negative impacts of the interaction of these species with fisheries using an ecosystem management approach.

These conservation tools have been fundamental in the work carried out to research and implement mitigation measures in Uruguay.



### Research & Monitoring

Uruguay has been monitoring the bycatch of seabirds taking place in various national fleets through the National Onboard Observer Programme run by DINARA. Following on from Uruguay's investigation of its industrial fishing fleets, as well as that carried out from a dedicated research vessel, it has been possible to determine which fisheries have this problem and which species are affected in each one of these, as well as to define the most effective mitigation measures. Currently, all longline and trawl fisheries traditionally operating in Uruguay, which is where the problem was detected, now have mitigation measures in place to reduce seabird bycatch. The efficiency of all these measures has been benchmarked by in-country research which enables the provisions to be adjusted in line with the real-life context of the Uruguayan fleets.

Research on seabird bycatch in Uruguay has included various studies to determine the areas and times of greatest bycatch in each of its fisheries as well as the effectiveness of various measures and devices in reducing these interactions. Numerous investigations have been carried out to determine the effectiveness of night setting of longlines, the use of bird scaring lines on both longlines and trawls, and the use of weighted branch lines on pelagic longlines. Some of the research has helped to determine the efficiency of new mitigation measures, such as underwater setting on pelagic longlines. This mitigation measure was recently included in ACAP's recommended best practices for pelagic longlines. Additionally, experiments have been carried out in Uruguay using hookpods on pelagic longlines, and the use of *cachaloteras* has also been tested on demersal longlines, among other mitigation measures for seabirds. The results of this research have been incorporated into the NPOA-Seabirds of Uruguay and existing regulations governing trawling.



### Future Opportunities & Challenges

Uruguay has effective mitigation measures in place to reduce the bycatch of ACAP species throughout its fisheries, even in those that are not currently operational. These measures have been tested in the country. However, one of the biggest challenges is to maintain an observer programme over time that allows for the adequate and most representative coverage of the efforts made by each fishery. This would ensure both the monitoring of bycatch and the continued evaluation of the efficiency of the mitigation measures in place. It is also necessary to continue working to develop appropriate control and oversight actions covering the use of mitigation measures.



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# ACAP Observers

## Cooperating Non-Parties

### Mexico

Mexico provides key breeding, feeding, and resting sites for a third of the seabird species worldwide, including the Laysan Albatross and the Black-footed Albatross. Over the last 20 years, Mexico's key achievements in seabird conservation are:

- Conservation translocation of ca. 120 Black-footed Albatross from Midway, Hawaii to Guadalupe Island, Mexico to found a breeding population to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise derived from climate change.
- Fostered the recovery of 85% of the historically extirpated seabird populations and population increments of declining colonies on the Baja California Pacific Islands.
- Implementation of a National Program for Island Restoration for over two decades.
- Participatory formulation of a National Program for the Conservation of Seabirds that identifies management and conservation priorities.
- Participation in the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management and the Trilateral Island Initiative which aim is to promote collaboration on the conservation and restoration of island ecosystems and their adjacent coastal and marine environments in North America.
- Established coordination among Mexican federal agencies that supports long-term programs.
- Eradicated 60 populations of invasive mammals on 39 priority islands.
- Implementation of a National Island Biosecurity Program to protect breeding populations on seabird islands.
- Protected all islands thanks to the Presidential Decree in 2016 that established the Baja California Pacific Islands Biosphere Reserve.
- Inclusion of the Archipiélago de Revillagigedo in the World Heritage List in 2016 and creation of the Revillagigedo National Park in 2017, which stands out as North America's largest fully protected marine reserve.
- Developed mitigation measures and an observer program in the sardine fishing fleet in the Gulf of California.
- Identified key areas for the conservation of the Laysan Albatross in the Mexican Pacific.
- Conducted long-term demographic studies of Laysan Albatross.
- Undertaken educational programs and produced and disseminated a variety of outreach materials to increase awareness of seabird conservation.

### United States of America

#### U.S. Seabird Conservation Achievements: 2004-2024

The United States is a leader in the conservation of seabirds both domestically and internationally, and is an active observer of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

#### Species Conservation

- The Endangered Species Act continues to be an effective vehicle for species recovery. The United States wrote a recovery plan in 2008 for the endangered Short-tailed Albatross. A status review in 2020 showed that the population now has a growth rate of 8.9%, with an estimated 7,365 individuals.<sup>25</sup>

#### Management of Human Activities

- The United States is committed to addressing seabird mortality in its fisheries, and has enacted several regulations for mitigating incidental catch. For example, U.S. longline fisheries across the Pacific are required to comply with NOAA Fisheries' seabird mitigation requirements, such as using weighted branchlines and strategic offal discards, as well as mandatory night-setting and specific bait for shallow-set longline vessels. These measures have significantly reduced seabird interactions. In the Alaskan demersal longline fleets, mitigation measures led to an 80% reduction in incidental seabird catch.<sup>26</sup> The United States continues to work with the fishing industry to gather information and improve mitigation options, as well as conduct research on best practices.

#### Habitat Conservation and Restoration

- Complementing this work are the habitat improvements for breeding birds and the creation of new breeding sites for ACAP species. For example, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has implemented projects to remove invasive plants and mammals from important breeding colonies like Midway Atoll.
- They have also translocated two albatross species to new colonies in the United States and Mexico that are safe from the inundation threatening most of their breeding sites.

<sup>25</sup>Short-tailed Albatross," U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, <https://www.fws.gov/species/short-tailed-albatross-phoebastria-albatrus>.

<sup>26</sup>"Implementation of the United States National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/19531>

## Cooperating APEC Member Economies

### Chinese Taipei

- Since 2019, Chinese Taipei has actively participated in ACAP and related meetings as an Observer. We appreciate ACAP's adoption of Resolution 6.8 in 2018.
- With our tuna longline fishing vessels operating in three oceans, where they may interact with albatrosses and petrels, we've implemented measures aligning with the resolutions and recommendations of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to mitigate seabird bycatch. We're committed to achieving a balance between fisheries and ecological conservation.
- Our collaboration with international organizations like BirdLife International and the Taiwan Wild Bird Federation has led to experimental tori line mitigation measures, seabird identification manuals, and observer training. In 2022, we contributed to the ACAP Special Fund to support a small grants programme for seabird bycatch, promoting seabird conservation.
- Domestically, we've monitored breeding sites of the Streaked Shearwater within the Mien-hua and Huaping Isle Wild Animal Protected Area. In 2022, our Chinese Crested Tern Conservation Plan united government agencies for the conservation of this critically endangered species.
- We eagerly anticipate more opportunities for knowledge exchange and cooperation with Parties, Range States, APEC member economies, and non-governmental organizations to collectively advance seabird conservation.

## Intergovernmental Organisations



### Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR congratulates ACAP on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. CCAMLR is recognised in the Agreement as an existing regional organisation relevant to ACAP, and has

maintained an MOU with ACAP since 2010 which facilitates cooperation and information exchange between the two organisations. CCAMLR's own work to mitigate the incidental mortality of seabirds associated with fishing started in 1993 through the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (IMAF). ACAP has been regularly invited as an expert to IMAF meetings as well as being an Observer at meetings of CCAMLR's Scientific Committee and Commission. CCAMLR actions to reduce seabird mortality in the Convention Area, including the incidental mortality of albatross and petrels, has been extremely successful, with the estimated number of incidental mortalities of birds in CCAMLR fisheries reduced from approximately 4000 per year in 2004 to about 100 today. Scientific observers are present on all vessels fishing in CCAMLR waters with instructions to observe the interactions between seabirds and fishing gear, and the efficacy of the mitigation measures required by CCAMLR regulations is regularly reviewed. CCAMLR continues work with ACAP involvement to improve methods to monitor, avoid and mitigate incidental mortality of seabirds in both longline and trawl fisheries. We wish ACAP success over the next 20 years.



### Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) has always valued its relationship with ACAP and its input over the years. The MoU between ACAP and the CCSBT has been in place since 2015 and

has allowed the two organisations to work together towards our shared seabird objectives. CCSBT looks forward to our continued collaboration in the years ahead particularly as we work to deliver the commitments of our Multi-Year Seabird Strategy.

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



### BirdLife International

BirdLife International's Marine Programme represents a network of Partners and collaborating Non-Governmental Organisations. The Marine Programme has contributed to

the objectives of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels through several avenues over the past twenty years.

The *Tracking Ocean Wanderers* publication summarised at-sea distributions of albatrosses and petrels from satellite-tracking data and compared with maps of longline fishing effort. The Seabird Tracking Database has since grown to hold over 34 million data points from >160 species, thanks to datasets submitted by more than 270 researchers. This resource has supported ACAP species assessments and facilitated many important seabird conservation initiatives.

Grass roots activities of the Albatross Task Force helped build our collective understanding of the scale and characteristics of seabird bycatch across multiple countries, fed into the development of ACAP Best Practice scientific advice and guided practical implementation at sea. A major focus has been sharing technical knowledge with fishery observer programmes, encouraging and promoting national, bi-lateral and multi-lateral collaborative research.

Advocacy at the tuna Regional Fishery Management Organisations based on tracking data and experimental mitigation research promoted the adoption of seabird conservation measures and improved observer coverage and reporting.

Engagement with the seafood supply chain has informed major retailers of high-risk fisheries, and input to the Marine Stewardship Council standard strengthened the criteria against which fisheries are certified.

Finally, BirdLife has championed the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.



**Humane Society International, Australia**

Protecting albatross and petrels is mission critical for Humane Society International/ Australia. For twenty years we are proud to have stood with the ACAP community with whom this

mission is shared. During this time ACAP has made huge gains in our knowledge of the birds, the threats they face and how to combat them; but there remains a great urgency to persuade others. As old threats persist and new threats emerge, the need for the Agreement to be effective has never been more pressing.

ACAP's advice to mitigate fishing threats to albatross and petrels is fine-tuned and now we must redouble efforts to ensure its global uptake, by current Members and by countries with distant water fishing fleets, whom we must welcome to our cause.

ACAP's expertise must also be quickly directed at the new risk of offshore wind farms. Urgent new advice will be needed for turbine design and location, while we desperately hope these efforts to decarbonise our economies and curb climate change are successful. For we must also work to help the birds adjust to the impacts of warmer oceans, changes to prey abundance, inundation events and disease.

The next twenty years will be incredibly challenging. These remarkable birds and their epic determination for survival must be our inspiration to make sure ACAP succeeds. We need to acknowledge that the pace of change we have collectively achieved in the last twenty years, commendable as it is, will not be sufficient to avoid extinctions in the next twenty. We have no choice but to increase our determination and intensify our efforts.



**Projeto Albatroz**

As an NGO working closely with longline fishers in one of the biggest conservation hotspots in the South Atlantic Ocean, Projeto Albatroz has been present at ACAP meetings since 2008 and

works to implement ACAP's objectives in the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in Brazil.

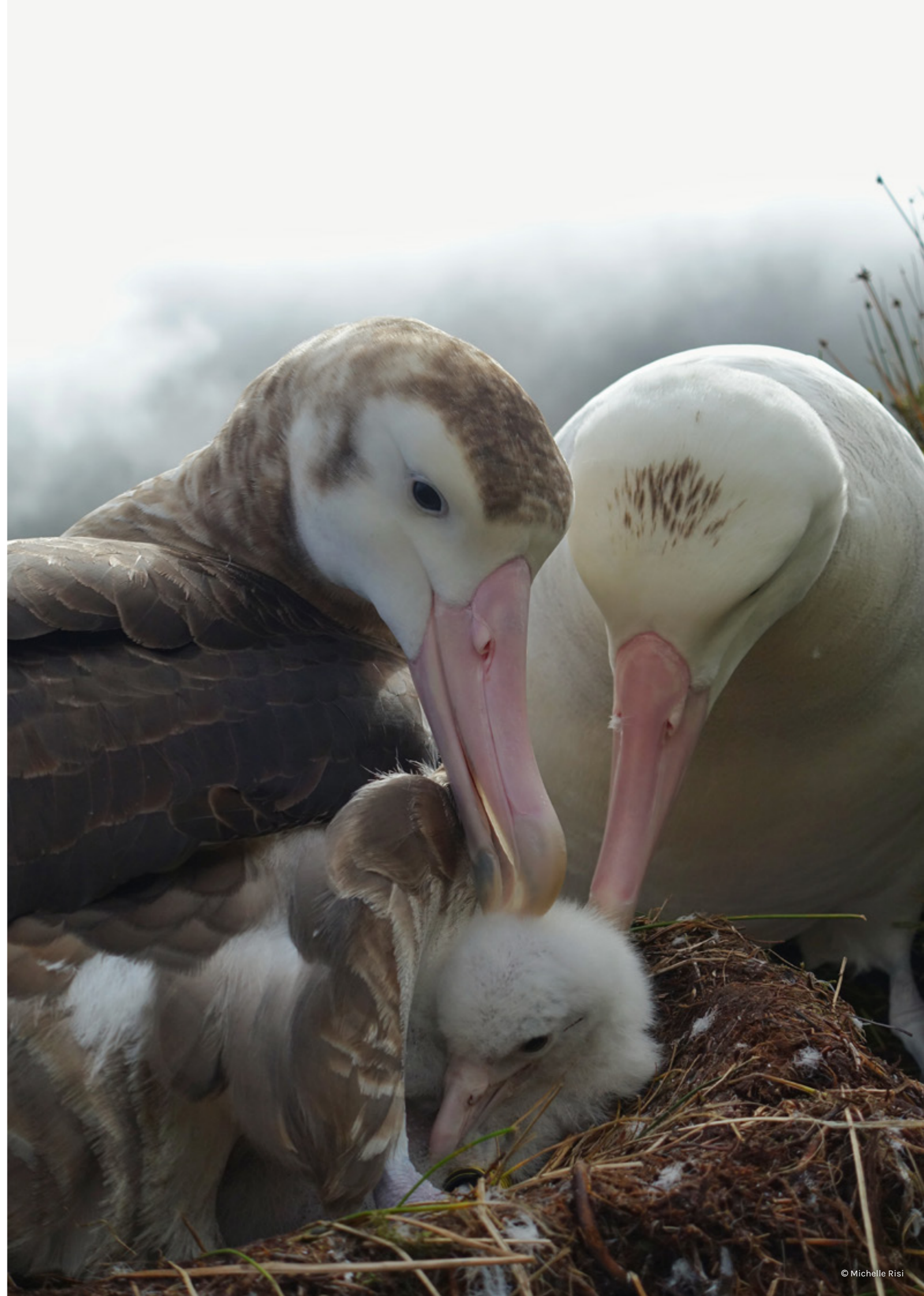
Our partnership is and also continues to be essential for the development of scientific research and environmental education efforts that promote public policies and conservation strategies at a global level, which are so important for the protection of birds such as albatrosses and petrels.

ACAP provides us with rich exchanges of data and experiences with the greatest seabird experts and researchers in the world, allowing our scientific staff to always be up to date with the best practices and statistics for working at sea with these enchanting birds. Furthermore, ACAP supports and contributes to the development of biological research, studies with mitigating measures in the field, such as the use of hookpod and hookpod mini alongside Birdlife International and the preparation of scientists to act as onboard observers. Tatiana Neves, currently the Vice-chair of ACAP's Advisory Committee, highlights that being part of ACAP's different working groups and the Advisory Committee means being sure that we are part of the highest authority for the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in the world. Therefore, Projeto Albatroz honours ACAP's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for its global importance for endangered birds, for its support in scientific development and also for the inspiration to continue studying and protecting these special birds day after day.



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Projeto Albatroz



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## Appendix 1. ACAP Parties

Parties to the Agreement	Date of signature	Date of ratification, acceptance/ approval or accession	Entry into force for Parties
Argentina	19 January 2004	29 August 2006	1 November 2006
Australia	19 June 2001	4 October 2001	1 February 2004
Brazil	19 June 2001	3 September 2008	1 December 2008
Chile	19 June 2001	13 September 2005	1 December 2005
Ecuador	18 February 2003	18 February 2003	1 February 2004
France	19 June 2001	28 June 2005 (approval)	1 September 2005
New Zealand	19 June 2001	1 November 2001	1 February 2004
Norway	n / a	5 March 2007 (accession)	1 June 2007
Peru	19 June 2001	17 May 2005	1 August 2005
South Africa	6 November 2003	6 November 2003	1 February 2004
Spain	30 April 2002	12 August 2003	1 February 2004
United Kingdom	19 June 2001	2 April 2004	1 July 2004
Uruguay	n / a	9 October 2008 (accession)	1 January 2009



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## Appendix 2. Summary of Status of ACAP Albatross and Petrel Species

Species	Common name	Year listed by ACAP	IUCN Status 2021 <sup>27</sup>	Number of sites (ACAP) <sup>28</sup>	Single Country Endemic	Annual breeding pairs (last census) <sup>29</sup>	Current Population Trend 2001 - 2020 <sup>30</sup>	Trend Confidence
<b>ALBATROSSES</b>								
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	2004	VU	28		9,400 (1981-2021)	↓	High
<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Tristan Albatross	2004	CR	1	UK	1,456 (2015-2017)	↓	High
<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross	2004	EN	6	NZ	7,107 (1995-2020)	↓	High
<i>Diomedea amsterdamensis</i>	Amsterdam Albatross	2004	EN	1	France	51 (2020)	↑	High
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross	2004	VU	4	NZ	7,921 (1989-2018)	↔	Low
<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross	2004	EN	5	NZ	4,080 (2018)	↓	Low
<i>Phoebastria irrorata</i>	Waved Albatross	2004	CR	2	Ecuador	9,615 (2001)	↓	Medium
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Short-tailed Albatross	2009	VU	2		889 (2002-2017)	↑	High
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	2009	NT	17		806,693 (1982-2019)	↔	High
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	2009	NT	13		70,524 (1995-2019)	↑	Medium
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy Albatross	2004	NT	3	Australia	15,019 (2015-2021)	↓	Low
<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	White-capped Albatross	2004	NT	5	NZ	62,922 (2009-2017)	?	-
<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Salvin's Albatross	2004	VU	12	NZ	26,496 (1986-2019)	↓	Low
<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Chatham Albatross	2004	VU	1	NZ	5,296 (2017)	↔	High
<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Buller's Albatross	2004	NT	10	NZ	33,268 (1984-2019)	↔	Medium
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	2004	EN	29		80,863 (1982-2020)	↓	Medium
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	2004	LC	65		689,468 (1982-2020)	↑	High
<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Campbell Albatross	2004	VU	2	NZ	24,338 (2020)	↔	Medium
<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	2004	EN	6		33,974 (1984-2016)	↓	High
<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	2004	EN	6	UK	33,650 (1974-2011)	↔	Low
<i>Phoebastria fusca</i>	Sooty Albatross	2004	EN	15		12,074 (1974-2021)	↓	Very Low
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	2004	NT	71		15,975* (1954-2021)	?	-
<b>PETRELS</b>								
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Petrel	2004	LC	119		46,127 (1958-2021)	↑	Medium
<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern Giant Petrel	2004	LC	50		11,551 (1973-2021)	↑	Medium
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned Petrel	2004	VU	73		1,118,033 (1984-2019)	↓	Very Low
<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>	Spectacled Petrel	2004	VU	1	UK	34,000-50,000 (2018)	↑	High
<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Black Petrel	2004	VU	2	NZ	6,970 (2016-2021)	↔	Low
<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	Westland Petrel	2004	EN	1	NZ	6,223 (2019)	↑	Low
<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Grey Petrel	2004	NT	17		86,959* (1981-2018)	↓	Very Low
<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>	Pink-footed Shearwater	2015	VU	3	Chile	33,520 (2009-2016)	↔	Low
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic Shearwater	2012	CR	5	Spain	3,184 (2008-2013)	↓	High

<sup>27</sup> CR Critically Endangered  
 EN Endangered  
 VU Vulnerable  
 NT Near Threatened  
 LC Least Concern

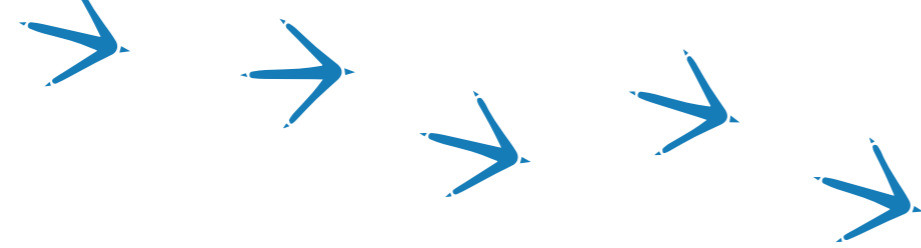
<sup>28</sup> Site: usually an entire, distinct island or islet, or section of a large island  
<sup>29</sup> ACAP database. <data.acap.aq>. 27 August 2021  
 \* excluding Auckland Island estimates of 5,000 pairs - not reliable/supported  
 # Incomplete global estimate - Prince Edward Islands numbers unknown

<sup>30</sup> ↑ increasing  
 ↓ declining  
 ↔ stable  
 ? unknown

n.b. the overall trend for the species may not reflect particular regional or site trends

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.  
 Version 2021-1. <www.iucnredlist.org>

# Glossary



<b>ABNJ</b>	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (see also High seas).
<b>AC / Advisory Committee</b>	The ACAP Advisory Committee is made up of representatives delegated by the ACAP Parties. The Advisory Committee provides expert advice and information to ACAP Parties, the Secretariat and others to enable decision-making and strategic planning.
<b>Bird-scaring line / Tori line</b>	A bird-scaring line (BSL), or tori line, is a long line with streamers attached to it at regular intervals that is towed by a longline or trawl fishing vessel to deter birds from diving for baited hooks as they sink below the surface of the water.
<b>Bycatch / incidental catch</b>	Bycatch is the unintentional or incidental capture of any non-target species of animal in fisheries.
<b>CCAMLR</b>	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.
<b>CCSBT</b>	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna - a tRFMO (tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) responsible for the management of the Southern Bluefin Tuna throughout its range.
<b>CMM</b>	Conservation and Management Measure. Conservation and Management Measures are legally binding decisions by RFMOs and CCAMLR relating to actions that Members' fisheries must adhere to/implement within an RFMO's or CCAMLR's area of competence.
<b>CMS</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
<b>Common Oceans Tuna project</b>	The Common Oceans Tuna project is an initiative under the FAO's Common Oceans Program (a global alliance for action in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)). The primary goal of the Common Oceans Tuna project is to promote sustainable tuna fishing practices through the collaboration of international partners in order to enhance the responsible management of tuna fisheries and protect marine biodiversity in the ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).
<b>Demersal fishing</b>	Demersal fishing targets bottom-dwelling fish species and employs primarily two methods; longline fishing, where baited hooks are set at intervals along the length of a fishing line, or trawl fishing in which a net is pulled behind a fishing vessel to capture fish.
<b>Depositary Government</b>	The government to which the written instruments, and also reservations and declarations of the treaty are entrusted.
<b>EEZ</b>	An "exclusive economic zone," or "EEZ" as specified by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is an area of the ocean, generally extending 200 nautical miles (approximately 370 kilometres or 230 miles) beyond a nation's territorial sea, within which a coastal nation has jurisdiction over both living and nonliving resources.
<b>EMS / Electronic Monitoring / Digital Monitoring</b>	Electronic or digital monitoring involves the use of video cameras and sensors on fishing vessels to record and collect data on fishing activities such as, species caught, location, bycatch, and type of fishing gear used.
<b>Endemic</b>	Native to a specific location or country.
<b>FAO</b>	The Food and Agriculture Organization is an agency of the United Nations responsible for agriculture and fisheries and aimed at leading international efforts to end hunger.
<b>High seas</b>	International law defines the high seas as the areas of the ocean that fall outside the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), territorial sea or internal waters of a State (country), or in the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic State (see also ABNJ).
<b>IATTC</b>	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission - a tRFMO (tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in Pacific Ocean waters east of 150°.
<b>ICCAT</b>	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas - a tRFMO (tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.
<b>Important Bird Areas</b>	Important Bird Areas are areas identified by BirdLife International as being globally important for the conservation of a bird population or assemblage.
<b>IOTC</b>	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission - a tRFMO (tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean.
<b>IPOA-Seabirds</b>	International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds): The International Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (IPOA-Seabirds) was developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 1998. The plan encourages all FAO member countries to implement their own National Plans of Action (NPOA-Seabirds). In terms of the IPOA-Seabirds, countries first assess the seabird by-catch problem within their fisheries and/or within their coastal waters. If a bycatch problem is found to exist, each country should then develop and implement its own National Plan of Action (NPOA-Seabirds), based on the recommendations listed in the IPOA-Seabirds.

<b>Marine Protected Areas</b>	MPAs provide levels of protection for the species and ecosystems located within their defined geographical boundaries through the legal framework that determines the type and scale of economic activity (if any) that can occur within them.
<b>Meeting of the Parties (MOP)</b>	The Meeting of the Parties (MOP) is the decision-making body of the Agreement, and consists of representatives from each Party to the Agreement.
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation (with iNGO - international Non-Governmental Organisation).
<b>non-Party</b>	Non-party refers to a State that has not ratified, acceded, or otherwise become a party to ACAP.
<b>NPOA-Seabirds</b>	See IPOA-Seabirds above.
<b>Observer</b>	Non-members of ACAP can be granted Observer status which allows a level of participation in the Agreement's activities.
<b>observer / fisheries observer</b>	An observer, or fisheries observer is employed to record and monitor the catch and associated scientific data on fishing vessels. They collect vital data such as, species caught (including bycatch), vessel location, and type of gear used.
<b>OSPAR</b>	OSPAR is the mechanism by which 15 Governments & the EU cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. OSPAR is so named because of the original Oslo and Paris Conventions ("OS" for Oslo and "PAR" for Paris).
<b>Party</b>	Party is the term used to refer to a State (or regional economic integration organisation) that has ratified or acceded to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.
<b>Pelagic fishing</b>	Pelagic fishing targets fish in the mid- and surface water zone and can employ two methods; longline fishing, where baited hooks are set at intervals along the length of a fishing line, or trawl fishing in which a net is pulled behind a fishing vessel to capture fish.
<b>Procellariiformes</b>	Procellariiform birds include four families: <i>Diomedidae</i> (albatrosses), <i>Procellariidae</i> (fulmars, prions, petrels, and shearwaters), <i>Oceanitidae</i> (storm petrels), and <i>Pelicanoididae</i> (diving petrels).
<b>Purse Seine</b>	A fishing technique used to catch shoaling mid-water and surface fish, where a net is placed around a school and then "pursed" under the shoal, before being hauled on board.
<b>Range State</b>	A Range State is any State that exercises jurisdiction over any part of the range of albatrosses or petrels, or a State, flag vessels of which are engaged outside its national jurisdictional limits in taking, or which have the potential to take, albatrosses and petrels.
<b>Resolution 6.8</b>	Resolution 6.8 refers to the implementation of Article VIII (15) of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels concerning any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels. In this resolution, ACAP Parties agreed to the participation by any member economy of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum whose vessels fish within the range of albatrosses and petrels, as an observer in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.
<b>RFMOs / tRFMOs</b>	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations are treaty-based bodies that have the authority to establish fisheries conservation and management measures in specific areas of the high seas. There are approximately 17 RFMOs covering various geographic areas and of these, five are tuna RFMOs, or tRFMOs, which manage fisheries for tuna and other large species of fish.
<b>SEAFO</b>	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation - a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of all living marine resources in the South East Atlantic Ocean.
<b>SIOFA</b>	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement - a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation responsible for the management of non-tuna fish stocks in the southern Indian Ocean high seas.
<b>SPRFMO</b>	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation - a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources of the South Pacific Ocean.
<b>Translocation</b>	Translocation is a conservation tool used to establish seabird colonies at new sites or re-establish colonies at former breeding sites, and typically involves moving eggs to the new site before hatching.
<b>UNCLOS BBNJ</b>	The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (UNCLOS BBNJ) provides a legal framework for governing the waters beyond national boundaries and incorporates a number of mechanisms to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. These include: provisions on marine genetic resources (MGRs); Area Based Management Tools (ABMT), including marine protected areas (MPAs); environmental impact assessments (EIA), and; capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology (CB&TMT).
<b>WCPFC</b>	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission - a tRFMO (tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the western and central Pacific Ocean.
<b>Working Groups</b>	ACAP's Advisory Committee has three Working Groups: the Seabird Bycatch Working Group (SBWG), the Population and Conservation Status Working Group (PaCSWG), and the Taxonomy Working Group (TWG). The Working Groups comprise representatives from ACAP's 13 Parties, together with invited experts with relevant technical or other expertise.



The logo features the letters 'A C A P' in a spaced-out, sans-serif font at the top. Below them is a large, stylized '20' with a 'TH' subscript. Underneath the '20' is the word 'ANNIVERSARY' in a smaller, spaced-out font, followed by the years '2004 - 2024' in the same style.

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